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JOHN CLANTON, THE OKLAHOMAN/AP

Deric Brawley, 12, sits with his dog on a friend's couch inside their destroyed home following Tuesday's deadly tornado near Lone Grove, Okla. On Thursday, Lone Grove City Manager Marianne Elfert said search-and-rescue efforts were over. Elfert said 10 to 15 people remain unaccounted for, but they are believed to have simply left the area.

‘WE WILL REBUILD’

Cleanup continues after rare February tornado kills 9 in Oklahoma

Page 15

GAO says Taliban may have U.S. arms

By JOSEPH GIORDONO
Stars and Stripes

American officials have lost track of tens of thousands of weapons intended for Afghan security forces, with some of the weapons heading to the Taliban, according to a government audit released Thursday.

A Government Accountability Office audit found that inventory controls were lacking for around 87,000 of the 242,000 U.S.-procured weapons given to Afghan forces between 2004 and 2008.

Additionally, reliable records were not kept for around 135,000 weapons donated from other NATO countries.

Afghan forces “cannot fully safeguard and account for weapons. As a result, weapons [the U.S. military] has provided to [Afghan National Security Forces] are at serious risk of theft or loss,” the GAO said.

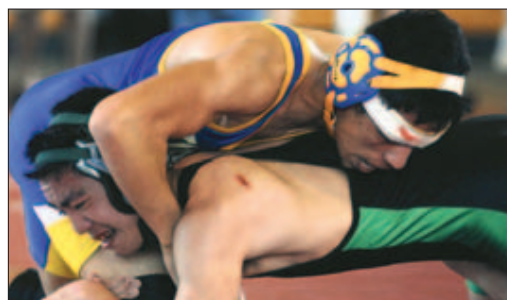
The audit raises concerns about accountability, with a major push in training of Afghan forces as part of a refined war strategy. The findings were presented Thursday to a House panel.

A member of that panel, Rep. John Tierney, D-Mass., said in a written statement that he worried militants could be fighting U.S. troops with weapons bought by U.S. taxpayers.

SEE WEAPONS ON PAGE 2



Tierney



Freestyle free-for-all

Intense competition marks second day of Far East wrestling tournament

Page 37

Shipboard college exams resume after a year's hiatus, but with new rules to protect test papers

Page 3

Scott Wood, bottom, of Kubasaki and Nick Guzman of Yokota

QUOTE
OF THE DAY**"Oh, my feet look pretty."**

— Pfc. Cortez Hamilton, after receiving a pedicure at Forward Operating Base Marez in Mosul, Iraq. Marez has become a city within a city, a place to buy tailored suits, DVDs, lattes, burgers and back rubs.

See story on Page 7

TELL
US

■ Does your leadership position in your on- or off-base church ever create conflicts with people in the congregation who outrank you in the military?

■ Have you ever been denied military advancement opportunities or been transferred to other duties in recent years after disclosing any mental health issues?

Give us your thoughts at respond@stripes.osd.mil

COMING
SOONScene on
SundayDogs and
datingTODAY
IN STRIPES

| | |
|------------------------|-------|
| Advice | 26 |
| American Roundup | 20-21 |
| Classified | 27-28 |
| Comics | 24-26 |
| Crossword | 25 |
| Faces | 17 |
| Horoscope | 24 |
| Opinion | 22-23 |
| Sports | 32-40 |
| Sudoku | 24 |
| Weather | 19 |
| Your Money | 18 |

Computers stolen from nuclear lab

By JOAN LOWY
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The Los Alamos nuclear weapons laboratory in New Mexico is missing 67 computers, including 13 that were lost or stolen in the past year. Officials said no classified information has been lost.

On Wednesday, the watchdog group Project on Government Oversight released a memo dated Feb. 3 from the Energy Department's National Nuclear Security Administration outlining the loss of the computers.

Kevin Roark, a spokesman

for Los Alamos, confirmed the computers are missing and said the lab is initiating a monthlong inventory process to account for every computer. He said the computers are a cybersecurity issue because they may contain personal information like names and addresses, but they do not contain any classified information.

Thirteen of the missing computers were lost or stolen in the past 12 months, including three computers taken from a scientist's home in Santa Fe, New Mexico, on Jan. 16. A BlackBerry belonging to another employee was lost "in a sensitive foreign

country," according to the memo and an e-mail from a senior manager in the lab's threat reduction directorate.

The theft of the three computers in January triggered the inventory and a review of the lab's policies regarding home use of government computers, Roark said.

Only one of the three computers stolen from the employee's home was authorized for home use, which raised the question of "whether we were fully complying with our own policies for off-site computer usage," he said.

Roark said computers with







classified information are "kept completely separate from unclassified computing."

The e-mail from Los Alamos senior manager Stephen Blair to lab co-workers says the missing computers and BlackBerry, are "garnering a great deal of attention with senior management as well as [nuclear security administration] representatives."

The security administration memo said the "magnitude of exposure and risk to the laboratory is at best unclear as little data on these losses has been collected or pursued given their treatment as property management issues."

Arming Afghanistan

Types and quantities of U.S.-procured weapons shipped to Afghanistan for ANSF (December 2004-June 2008).

| | Weapon category | Quantity shipped |
|---|------------------------------------|------------------|
|  | Rifles | 117,163 |
|  | Pistols | 62,055 |
|  | Machine guns | 35,778 |
|  | Grenade launchers | 18,656 |
|  | Shotguns | 6,704 |
|  | Rocket-propelled grenade launchers | 1,620 |
|  | Mortars and other weapons | 227 |
| | Total | 242,203 |

Source: GAO analysis of Defense data

Stars and Stripes



RAFIQ MAQBOOL/AP

An Afghan police officer holds his gun as he stands guard Thursday at a checkpoint in Kabul, Afghanistan. A recent audit showed that many guns the U.S. government shipped to Afghanistan are unaccounted for.

Correction

A Feb. 13 story should have stated that Lt. Gen. Phadegarn Jansaewoke, Royal Thai Armed Forces, is exercise director of Cobra Gold '09. Thailand's air marshal, Siripong Thongyai, is commander of Combined Joint Task Force Cobra Gold '09.

Weapons: GAO findings on Afghanistan similar to Iraq

WEAPONS, FROM PAGE 1

"That's what we risk if we were to have tens of thousands of weapons we provided washing around Afghanistan, off the books," Tierney wrote, according to The Washington Post.

The audit echoes a similar GAO report from 2007 detailing how at least 190,000 AK-47s and pistols intended for Iraqi forces could not be accounted for.

Since 2002, the U.S. government has given Afghanistan around \$16.5 billion for training and equipping

security forces. At least \$5.7 billion has been requested for fiscal year 2009. According to the GAO, the U.S. has purchased \$120 million worth of weapons for Afghanistan since December 2004.

The weapons donated by other NATO countries were valued at around \$103 million.

According to the GAO, there were breakdowns at all levels of the supply chain.

"Defense did not provide clear guidance to U.S. personnel as to what accountability procedures ap-

plied when handling, transporting, and storing weapons obtained for the ANSF, resulting in significant lapses in accountability for these weapons," the audit reads.

The report was written by a GAO team that visited Afghanistan last August and attempted to track the weapons.

GAO officials said the military had begun attempting to correct the problems shortly before the auditors went to Afghanistan.

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ERIK SLAVIN/Stars and Stripes

Saleswomen stand by to wrap boxes of chocolate at a row of Valentine's Day booths in the More's building next to Yokosuka Chuo Station in Yokosuka, Japan, on Thursday. For Valentine's Day in Japan, women purchase chocolates for men. Men reciprocate on March 14.

In Japan, Valentine's Day is just a little different

By ERIK SLAVIN AND HANA KUSUMOTO
Stars and Stripes

While many American men fret over what on Earth will make their American girlfriends and wives happy on Valentine's Day, men with Japanese girlfriends are decidedly more relaxed.

In Japan, Valentine's Day roles are somewhat reversed.

The woman buys the man chocolates and might even take him out on the town that night.

"It's the way it should work," said a smiling Petty Officer 1st Class Craig Elstak of Brooklyn, N.Y., at Yokosuka Naval Base on Thursday. "I'm already set for this weekend. I'm ready to be taken out and treated like a Japanese man."

But Elstak, who has been in Japan for about two years, knows there is a flip side.

Japan also has White Day on March 14, when the man is expected to give the woman cookies and candy.

"The stress of it all is really decreased," Elstak said. "If she goes all out on Valentine's Day, you know you're going to go all out [on White Day]."

For the Japanese, Valentine's Day can be part of the country's seemingly endless gift-giving obligations.

Japanese women are expected to buy chocolates for their boyfriends, but in many cases they're also supposed to give chocolates to men they work with — even married men and men they don't particularly like.

That's why some women said they were happy that Valentine's Day is on a Saturday this year

— it relieves them of some work obligations and allows them to spend more on their friends and boyfriends.

"I plan to give [chocolate] to my boyfriend," said 21-year-old college student Mio Takahashi in Tokyo's Shibuya neighborhood, where women crowded at department store booths displaying many colorfully wrapped boxes of Valentine's chocolates.

Takahashi said the American way of pampering women on Valentine's Day didn't sound so bad either.

"If someone will give me [presents], I want it," she said.

Some Americans said they'd oblige.

"Most likely, I would still buy a woman a gift on Valentine's Day," said Seaman Charles Hamilton of White Settlement, Texas, who arrived in Japan less than a week ago.

"It's the way I was raised, especially being from Texas."

That's not necessarily a bad thing, Elstak said.

Japanese women who receive an unexpected romantic gesture from an American they like will probably appreciate it, he said.

The key is to mix the gesture with a respect for Japanese humility, Elstak said.

When giving a Japanese woman a gift, don't act like it's a big deal, and she'll be happy, he said.

"You get serious points" for being humble, Elstak said. "Do what your mom taught you, what your dad taught you, and you're straight."

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AmerAsian School receives donation from Marine shop

By CINDY FISHER
Stars and Stripes

GINOWAN CITY, Okinawa — The Marine Thrift Shop donated \$4,000 Thursday to AmerAsian School on Okinawa — a gift that will make a real difference, school officials said.

The small school in Ginowan City was founded in 1998 as a place for children of American and Japanese descent to learn about both sides of their cultural heritage, Mimi Thayer, the school's director/education program manager, said Thursday.

Too often the educational needs of these children, many of whom are raised in a single-parent home after their American servicemember fathers leave Okinawa, are ignored, Thayer said. The school does not receive support from the Japanese or local governments and relies primarily on donations, she said.

The Marine Thrift Shop board felt the school would be the perfect recipient for the donation made in honor of Larry Alsop, a retired servicemember and prior board member who died last year, said Andrea Tatayon, chairwoman for the board.

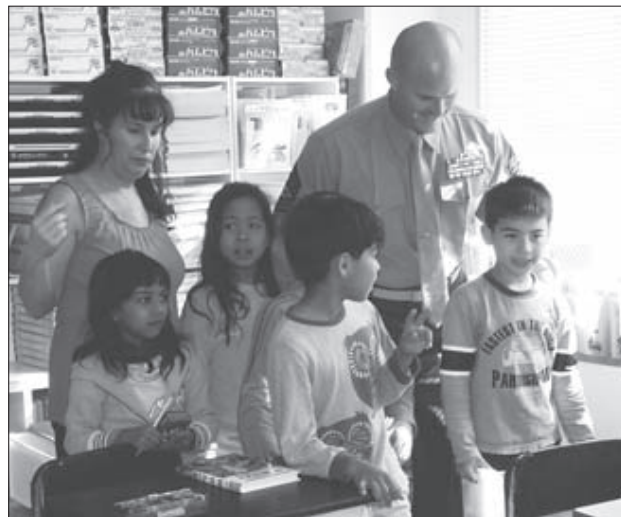
"The board wanted to give back to the local community," Tatayon said. "What better way to give back than a place that helps both communities and supports children with American blood."

The entire donation will be used for scholarships, Thayer said as she accepted the donation, tears filling her eyes.

American donations and volunteers help make the school possible, Thayer said as she talked about the hardships of keeping the school going.

"Americans are very generous, very heartfelt," Thayer said.

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CINDY FISHER/Stars and Stripes

Markie Bonar, left, Marine Thrift Shop manager, and Master Sgt. Mike Hansen talk with students at AmerAsian School in Okinawa on Thursday, a school in Ginowan City for children of American and Japanese descent. Thrift shop officials donated \$4,000 to the school to be used for scholarships for less-privileged children to pay for school tuition.

Shipboard college exams resume with new rules

By TRAVIS J. TRITTEN
Stars and Stripes

Sailors may again take college exams aboard ships after lost tests triggered a worldwide freeze on the practice a year ago.

The testing must follow a new policy designed to ensure more secure storage and handling of exams, and those who violate the rules will face punishment, the U.S. Navy said in a recent memorandum.

The Defense Activity for Non-Traditional Education Support gives thousands of sailors around the world access to a variety of higher education opportunities, including college exams and law school entrance testing.

The Navy halted the program in March after tests were lost at some shore facilities and aboard some ships.

All paper-based education testing resumed at shore facilities two months later, but the Navy vowed to freeze examinations aboard ships until it made policy changes.

"Critical to full restoration of testing afloat is our ability to ensure the security of all academic exams," according to the memo. "DANTES sponsored tests are controlled items, which require secure storage and handling."

Here are the new rules:

- Ships can be authorized to set up testing centers for one year.
- Tests can only be kept aboard ships for

two months, and no tests can be moved on shore.

- If a testing supervisor leaves and is not immediately replaced, testing must be suspended and all exams must be returned to the testing agency until a new supervisor is named.

- Any lost or compromised tests must be reported to DANTES immediately, and a full investigation must be completed.

- Testing sites must be reported and closed down when a ship returns from deployment.

- A ship's testing privileges can be restored only after a full accounting of any lost or compromised tests.

"Personnel engaged in DANTES test ad-

ministration and security who fail to follow policy are subject to ... the Uniform Code of Military Justice and appropriate civilian policies," said the NAVADMIN released by Vice Adm. M.E. Ferguson III last month.

Affected shipboard testing includes the ACT college entrance test and Excelsior College examinations, which are accepted at many academic institutions and cover 53 areas of the arts, sciences, business, education and nursing.

The Navy administered 10,673 paper-based tests to 6,662 sailors in 2007, and the stop in testing probably affected thousands, according to the chief of naval personnel.

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Warriors focus on training



PHOTOS BY SCOTT KIM /Courtesy of the U.S. Army

M1A1 Abrams tanks from the 1st Battalion, 72nd Armor Regiment roll out for simulated combat during Warrior Focus. The recently completed exercise included both live and computer-based elements.

10-day exercise combines field time with virtual scenarios

By JIMMY NORRIS
Stars and Stripes

SEOUL — While many military training exercises are marked by long days carrying heavy loads of equipment and long nights swatting at mosquitoes, the Warrior Focus exercise added new dimensions to training that some officials say might herald big changes in the way field exercises are conducted on the peninsula.

The 10-day exercise, which ended Friday. It included a "live" component, in which soldiers took to field sites and operated their equipment at Rodriguez Range and the Korea Training Center, as well as "virtual" and "constructive" electronically driven elements that officials said helped make up for the lack of available training space in South Korea.

Soldiers participating in the virtual component of the training, at Camp Casey's Close Combat Tactical Trainer, operated simulators designed to replicate the controls in their tanks, helicopters and Bradley Fighting Vehicles.

Next door, soldiers engaged in the "constructive" element of the exercise manned computers and helped generate exercise scenarios and send reports to commanders.

"This allows us to train a larger unit in kind of a restrictive space or more of a home station environment instead of having to deploy everyone out to the field or go out to a training center in the States," said 1st Heavy Brigade Combat Team planner Maj. Judson Strom.

Lt. Col. Gordon Richardson, 1st HBCT fire support coordinator, illustrated the benefits of the combined live and electronic training using the artillery batteries under his command as an example.

Paladin howitzer crews of the 1st Battalion, 15th Field Artillery Regiment are generally restricted to firing points within certain training areas, making maneuver training difficult.

By simulating maneuvers on a computer, the batteries were able to enhance their training.

Commanders at the battalion and brigade levels were able to make decisions and issue orders based on the results of both the live and constructive fire-and-maneuver missions.

"There's no difference in the process," Richardson said.

"Battalion and brigade don't really know the difference between the live and the simulated."



Members of the 302nd Brigade Support Battalion conduct a medical evacuation with soldiers serving as simulated patients during the Warrior Focus exercise.



Soldiers from the 1st battalion, 72nd Armor Regiment protect a building in a small village at the Combined Arms Collective Training Facility, a facility used for training combat in urban operations.

Strom said in addition to easing space constraints, the electronic elements of the training also lowered the cost of the exercise by saving fuel and preventing wear and tear on equipment.

It also presents fewer of the logistical issues encountered when mounting a large-scale field exercise.

As units continue to move farther south as part of U.S. Forces Korea's continuing transformation, those considerations could drive commanders to look toward electronic training more often, Strom said.

"It's probably something that's going to be more important for commanders to leverage," Strom said. "It won't be as easy to shoot out to Rod Range for a week and have a field exercise. I think there

will be a bigger push to use simulations as a way to sustain their training."

While simulations have many advantages, Strom said, they're not without drawbacks.

Soldiers participating in simulated training don't get experience living in field conditions or gain "hands-on" experience with their equipment.

"The other two training realms are intended to complement live training, never replace it," Strom said.

"The field is never going to go away. Really being out on your equipment and having your sergeant out there to supervise you is always going to be the best training."

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U.S. phone numbers available in S. Korea

By JIMMY NORRIS
Stars and Stripes

SEOUL — Just in time for Valentine's Day, troops stationed in South Korea can give their sweethearts back home the gift they've been waiting for — a cheaper phone bill.

U.S. phone numbers will once again become available on posts Saturday, according to an Army and Air Force Exchange Service release.

Customers can register for the new numbers at any LG Dacom storefront. The numbers, which will be issued in addition to the Korean numbers customers already have, will cost customers an additional \$15 a month. If they have LG Dacom's unlimited calling plan, the service will cost an additional \$10 a month. AAFES spokesman Jeff Craven said the fee is to cover LG Dacom's costs for the use of the U.S. numbers.

Craven said callers in the States who dial the numbers will pay either local or reduced rates for the calls.

"Even within the same area code, distance matters," Craven said.

Calls to the United States from South Korea won't be any cheaper, Craven said, and the cost and procedure for dialing numbers outside Korea will remain unchanged.

Craven said the new service is a response to customers who'd asked for an easier way for friends and family in the States to contact them.

Craven said customers will be able to choose from a list of area codes available at any LG Dacom AAFES concession. He said the area codes available will change daily, as there is a limited amount of phone numbers available for each area code.

Prior to 2007, many servicemembers living on post used Internet-based voice over Internet protocol services such as Vonage and Lingo.

But the South Korean government said in 2006 that most foreign companies didn't comply with the nation's telecommunications laws and that their use was technically illegal because they weren't registered with the South Korean Telecommunications Act.

In June that year, Samsung Rental Corp Ltd. announced it would begin blocking U.S.-based VoIP providers on military installations.

Believing the move would be a hardship for those with existing VoIP contracts, officials from U.S. Forces Korea entered negotiations with the contractor, also known as SSRT, to delay the move, then continued negotiations with LG Dacom when the company took over on-post Internet services.

In 2007 LG Dacom began providing VoIP services, for a slightly higher cost than most of the U.S.-based companies charged, but was unable to provide U.S. numbers.

Craven said LG Dacom's new U.S. number service is landline, not Internet based, and new technologies have allowed LG Dacom to provide the new service.

"We have been working on this for a year as it needed to be approved by the Korean MIC (Ministry of Communications)," Craven said in an e-mail Thursday. "It also took time to work a good technical solution and to purchase equipment to make it all work."

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Rapper Yung Joc makes stop at Camp Zama

By TIM WIGHTMAN
Stars and Stripes

The line of young Yung Joc fans packed the Camp Zama Youth Center gym Thursday, hours before the famous rapper was scheduled to take the stage.

That they were too young to attend the free night performance hardly bothered the youths as, one by one, they stepped up to the counter to meet and snap photos with one of their idols.

"I had to change my entire schedule around for this," 17-year-old Jasmine Johnson said, minutes after posing for a photo with the performer. "I listen to him all the time. I love Yung Joc."

Seventeen-year-old Austin Wilson said he enjoys listening to Yung Joc's songs, which he said are played frequently at youth dances on base.

"We don't live in the States, and this kind of thing is so rare," Wilson said of base visits by celebrities. "We get a few that sort of roll around but usually they go to Yokota, not here."

Yung Joc won the 2006 BET Hip-Hop Track of the Year award for "It's Goin' Down." He's also planning to release his third studio album, "Mr.

Robinson's Neighborhood," in June.

The 25-year-old 'Joc' said he always tries to make time for his younger fans.

"People say during interviews, 'What do you have to say to the kids?' and a lot of times you can't say it in three minutes," he said. "Sometimes it just takes a hands-on experience where a kid actually gets to hear you say something worth their while that's going to mean something and make a difference."

He said being able to perform for military people overseas benefits him as much as it does the servicemembers.

"It's a way to give back, and it's always a way to enlighten myself and other people as far as what we're doing through the music," said the award-winning rapper. "I'm definitely privileged and pleased to be here. It's a beautiful opportunity."

Yung Joc was scheduled to perform at Yokosuka Naval Base on Friday, Naval Air Facility Atsugi on Saturday and Sasebo Naval Base on Monday before visiting bases on Okinawa and South Korea later this month.

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TIM WIGHTMAN/Stars and Stripes

Fifteen-year-old Princess Henton receives an autographed photo from Yung Joc while her friends snap photos during the rapper's visit to the Camp Zama, Japan, Youth Center on Thursday. Yung Joc will be touring Far East military bases throughout the month.



Jerrilyn Ishee, right, and her daughter, Audrey, get autographs from NFL Hall of Famer Franco Harris at the Yokosuka Naval Base, Japan, commissary Thursday.

DAVID J. CARTER
Stars and Stripes

Former Steelers great Harris visits Yokosuka

By DAVID J. CARTER
Stars and Stripes

YOKOSUKA NAVAL BASE, Japan — Former Pittsburgh Steelers running back and Super Bowl IX most valuable player Franco Harris met with servicemembers and their families at the Yokosuka commissary on Thursday.

More than 250 people showed up to get autographs and have their pictures taken with the NFL Hall of Famer.

"I'm amazed — my heart is beating out of my chest," said Tracy Halterman, a Navy spouse who showed up to capture some photos and autographs for her husband, who couldn't attend.

Harris, who earned four Super Bowl rings with the Steelers, is no stranger to visiting with troops. Last year, he and a group of football greats visited bases in South Korea. Earlier this week, Harris stopped by bases on Guam and Okinawa.

"I've had the opportunity to meet a lot of nice people," Harris said. "And the service that

they provide for our country is amazing."

When asked about Pittsburgh winning the Super Bowl this year, Harris emphasized one word: tradition.

"It was sweet," Harris said of the franchise's sixth Super Bowl title. "Football is all about tradition, and it was great to see them continue on that tradition this year."

For some folks in attendance Thursday, the Steelers tradition is a family affair.

"It's a rare opportunity to meet players," said Petty Officer 1st Class Warren Womer, who made the drive down with his sons from Naval Air Facility Atsugi. "They'll definitely be Steelers fans," he said, pointing to his sons.

Harris, who's best known for his "Immaculate Reception" play during a 1972 AFC playoff game, will wrap up his Pacific tour Saturday in South Korea.

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West Point cadets urged to seek out mental health help

By KIMBERLY HEFLING
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Following four suicides at the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, officials said Wednesday they are emphasizing to cadets that seeking help for mental health problems won't jeopardize their military careers.

In the past seven months, two cadets, a faculty member and a staff member at the academy have taken their own lives. The suicides were the first at the school in upstate New York since 1999.

They are part of a larger trend as the strained military wages war in Iraq and Afghanistan. The Army had its highest rate of suicide on record in 2008 and is investigating a spike in the number in January.

Academy Chaplain Col. John Cook, who addressed the issue Wednesday at a meeting on Capitol Hill, said there does not appear to be a common denominator among the four West Point suicides — the most recent of which occurred in January. None of the

four had faced a recent deployment, for example.

In addition to the suicides, two cadets recently attempted to take their own lives, he said.

"We're doing everything we can to study these cases, understand why they happened, and see what we can do to move ahead," Cook said.

He said three times the number of cadets are seeking mental health help, which leaders view as a positive sign that the stigma associated with getting assistance has been reduced.

Brig. Gen. Michael Linnington, commandant of cadets, said there is a misconception among cadets that seeking help will jeopardize their military careers, so leaders have stressed that's not the case.

Army Secretary Pete Geren said that's also a challenge Army-wide. He said surveys show the stigma associated with seeking help has decreased, but more than half of soldiers surveyed still believe that getting help could damage their futures.

Cook said the academy has reframed its training on suicide prevention to include it as part of its leadership development curriculum.

Army program to develop students' goals

By KAREN MATTHEWS
The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Students at 10 New York-area high schools will learn skills from the U.S. Army under a program coordinated by the Public School Athletic League and a nonprofit organization.

The program is designed to teach student-athletes "life skills" from Army training, according to Academics in Motion, which operates in nine New York City public high schools plus Hillside High School in New Jersey.

"Army recruiters are people with a very solid background in

working with young people and really serving as mentors," said Jim Presbrey, co-founder of Academics in Motion.

He said the program "isn't about getting kids in the Army. It's about helping kids develop their life goals."

But Donna Lieberman, executive director of the New York Civil Liberties Union, which has protested what it calls overly intrusive military recruiting in city schools, said the program raises serious concerns.

"The Army has a long track record of targeting New York's poor black and Latino populations with

coercive and aggressive military recruitment techniques and now we are seeing potentially another avenue for military recruitment in our schools," Lieberman said.

Academics in Motion said that the eight-week pilot program would begin this month, but a spokeswoman said Wednesday that the start of the program was being revised and pushed back.

The press release said that the program will teach students skills such as "goal setting, effective thinking, attention control and memory," with the goal that it could become a national model.

Air base becomes tool in negotiation

BY ANNE GEARAN AND ROBERT BURNS
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — A standoff over an obscure air base in a Central Asian country few Americans could find on a map is becoming an opening salvo in a new kind of Cold War with Russia.

The prize is not military mastery or the global supremacy of ideas, but the defensive protection of resources and security. Each of the 20th century nuclear superpowers wants say-so over the decisions the other has reserved the right to make, and with a new U.S. administration signaling possible compromise with Russia on a missile-basing plan detested by Russia, Moscow is using U.S. dependence on the base for the Afghan war to drive a hard bargain.

Security officials in Kyrgyzstan said Friday the United States must quit the Manas air base, but U.S. officials said they have not gotten any official eviction notice and that negotiations to stay are under way.

"I think that the principal motivation is to reassert Russian influence and get visible U.S. presence out of former Soviet republics," said retired Adm. William J. Fallon, who oversaw the Afghan and Iraq war as head of U.S. Central Command until last year.

Also Friday, Russia turned up the heat on the most pressing dispute between Russia and Washington, saying Moscow won't install missiles near Poland if the United States drops its plans for an Eastern Europe-based missile defense system.

President Barack Obama has not been explicit in public about whether he would



ALEXANDER NATRUSKIN/AP

Russia's President Dmitry Medvedev speaks during a State Council session in Moscow's Kremlin on Thursday.

continue with installations in Poland and the Czech Republic. More broadly he has said he supports missile defense but wants to ensure that it is a proven, reliable system that does not detract from other security priorities.

Russian President Dmitry Medvedev's threat to deploy the missiles in Kaliningrad came hours after Obama was declared the winner of the U.S. presidential race.

"This administration will be candid with the Russians when we disagree, but seeks a deeper and greater cooperation on issues of mutual national interest," White House press secretary Robert Gibbs said Friday.

The exchange capped a confusing week in which Russia was widely seen to have offered Kyrgyzstan's leader billions to evict

the U.S. military from its main air hub for supplies going into the widening Afghanistan war.

The Kremlin announced Friday that it would begin allowing U.S. supplies for Afghanistan to cross its territory to avoid Pakistan where supply lines are increasingly threatened by militant attacks. But Russia stressed that only nonlethal U.S. supplies would be permitted across its territory — which would still pose problems for the transit of U.S. weapons and other materiel.

Like the missile defense issue, the future of the U.S. base is a symptom of the deeper contest for influence in central and eastern Europe and in Central Asia.

Russia has long been irritated by the U.S. military presence in what it considers its natural areas of influence in Eastern Europe and Central Asia, a strategically located region straddling Europe and close to volatile nations such as Iran, Afghanistan and Pakistan.

For Russia the contest is about protecting itself in its own neighborhood. For the United States, it's about ensuring that terrorism and extremism aren't exported from that neighborhood to threaten the United States or its allies.

Both are legitimate goals, and they are not necessarily at odds if the Obama administration addresses Russian gripes and anxieties and if Russia trusts U.S. motives.

"The Russian government appears eager not to close any doors with the Obama administration and to explore opportunities for cooperation," said longtime Russia analyst Dimitri Simes of the Nixon Center in Washington.

What Moscow is telling the new kids on the block, Simes said, is that it is ready to do business "but wants a quid pro quo."

Two officials sent to Moscow to save base

Stars and Stripes

The Obama administration sent two top officials to Moscow on Wednesday in an effort to retain access to a key military base in Central Asia, in what is the first major test of the administration's relations with Russia, The Washington Times reported Thursday.

William Burns, undersecretary of state for political affairs and former ambassador to Moscow, planned to hold talks with senior Russian officials to better understand the link that Washington says exists between the Kyrgyz government's decision to end the U.S. lease of the Manas air base and a Russian offer of \$2 billion in aid for Kyrgyzstan, U.S. officials told the Times.

A senior official told the Times that the administration wants to hear "what it is Kyrgyzstan wants" and whether the Russians want anything in exchange for continued U.S. use of the base, which Washington deems vital to U.S. and NATO operations in Afghanistan — especially at a time when the U.S. is preparing to send 30,000 more troops into the country. State Department spokesman Robert Wood confirmed the visit, the paper noted.

Kyrgyz President Kurmanbek Bakiyev announced his intention to oust the Americans after a meeting with his Russian counterpart, Dmitry Medvedev, in Moscow last week. The Russians insisted, however, that they had nothing to do with the decision, saying the aid package had been under discussion for months. A planned vote in the Kyrgyz parliament on the government's recommendation has been postponed three times, the Times noted.

U.S. envoy arrives for first Afghanistan visit

By Heidi Vogt
The Associated Press

KABUL — The new U.S. regional envoy landed in Afghanistan on Thursday to help chart President Barack Obama's strategy for peace in this volatile country, a day after a bold Taliban assault demonstrated the insurgency's ability to wreak havoc even in the tightly guarded capital.

A U.S. Embassy spokesman confirmed Richard Holbrooke's arrival late in the day, but declined to give further details about his location or the schedule for his multiday visit.

Holbrooke's first visit to the country comes amid an increasing sense that the security situation is disintegrating in and around Kabul. On Wednesday, Taliban fighters launched one of their most audacious attacks on the capital, killing 20 people in a coordinated assault on three government buildings.

Government officials said the mastermind behind the attacks was based in Pakistan, a reminder of the cross-border violence and disputes that have made the battle against the Taliban so difficult.

One of Holbrooke's roles as envoy to both countries is to help the Obama administration to design a strategy that will combat Taliban regionally. He is set to meet with President Hamid Karzai, and other high-level officials.



Holbrooke

Under rain and snow, troops armed with heavy machine guns swarmed street intersections in Kabul on Thursday, checking drivers' papers and searching cars.

"Security measures have been increased 100 percent, particularly at the gates of Kabul," said Abdul Gafar Pacha, the head of the police criminal investigation unit.

In the east, meanwhile, a suicide bomber Thursday blew himself up outside a police station in Sharan, the capital of Paktika province, killing an officer and wounding 10 others, the Interior Ministry said in a statement.

Army drops charges against soldier

By Seth Robson
Stars and Stripes

GRAFENWOEHR, Germany — The Army has dropped all charges against a 172nd Infantry Brigade soldier who was allegedly involved in the execution of four Iraqi men in Baghdad last year.

Staff Sgt. Jess Cunningham, 27, faced charges of conspiracy to commit premeditated murder for his role in the alleged execution of the Iraqis by three U.S. non-commissioned officers in April 2007.

However, on Thursday the Joint Multinational Training Command (JMTC), which is the convening authority for the case, withdrew and dismissed all charges against Cunningham, according to JMTC deputy public affairs officer Denver Makle.

"Charges can be withdrawn and dismissed at any time. ... They can also be re-filed at any time, although, I don't believe that will happen," she said.

During a pre-trial Article 32 hearing in August, witnesses testified that Cunningham was at the scene when the Iraqis were shot and thrown into a canal. However, he remained in a vehicle and declined to participate in the killings, they said.

The Army has charged the alleged shooters — 1st

Sgt. John E. Hatley, 40; Sgt. 1st Class Joseph P. Mayo, 27, and Sgt. Michael P. Leahy Jr., 26 — all formerly assigned to 1st Battalion, 18th Infantry Regiment, with one specification each of premeditated murder, conspiracy to commit premeditated murder and obstruction of justice.

Several soldiers, who played peripheral roles in the incident, have been convicted of lesser charges while others await trial or have been granted immunity from prosecution in exchange for testifying against the accused.

Cunningham blew the whistle on the killings in January last year, revealing them to Capt. Richard Newman, an Army trial defense attorney. Newman then passed the information to a CID special agent without negotiating immunity for his client, Cunningham's civilian lawyer, James Culp, said in August.

The Army is pushing ahead with a court martial for Sgt. Charles Quigley, another 172nd soldier who was at the scene of the murders but who later wore a wire to help CID gather evidence against others involved in the case. Quigley's trial is scheduled for early March, according to JMTC.

Email Seth Robson at: robsons@estripes.osd.mil

Suicide attack kills 8 pilgrims in Karbala

BAGHDAD — A suicide bomber killed eight Shiite pilgrims and wounded more than 50 others Thursday, a police official said. It was the second deadly attack on pilgrims in as many days.

The suicide bomber joined the

procession near the Imam Hussein shrine in the Shiite holy city of Karbala and then detonated an explosive belt filled with nails, said the official.

A medical official in Karbala confirmed that eight pilgrims were killed and 52 injured in the attack.

On Wednesday, bombs struck Shiite pilgrims in Baghdad, kill-

ing at least 12 people and wounding over 40.

Hundreds of thousands of Shiite pilgrims are converging in Karbala to mark Monday's end of 40 days of mourning that follow Ashoura, the anniversary of the seventh century death of the Prophet Muhammad's grandson Hussein.

From The Associated Press

Troops prepare to turn over FOB Iskan

By STEVE MRAZ
Stars and Stripes

ISKANDARIYAH, Iraq — A longtime U.S. forward operating base will soon be handed over to the Iraqis, continuing a transition toward greater Iraqi control across the nation.

Forward Operating Base Iskan was once home to more than a battalion-sized element of American soldiers. Within the month, U.S. forces will turn over the base to the Iraqi Ministry of Electricity. Iraqi army soldiers could be stationed at the base as well.

"The security program is basically working," said Maj. Mike Swinton, an engineer with the 172nd Infantry Brigade. "We're reconfiguring our area of operations and putting the Iraqi face forward."

Earlier this week, soldiers with the 172nd Support Battalion traveled to FOB Iskan to pick up vehicles and cargo containers as the U.S. military leaves the facility.

"Right now, we're retrograding all the equipment for the FOB clo-

sure," said Staff Sgt. Shawn Goodsell of Company A, 172nd Support Battalion, out of Schweinfurt, Germany. "We're just hoping to get them all cleared out."

FOB Iskan is distinguished by four towering smokestacks that spew differing colors of smoke. The base is home to a massive one-gigawatt power plant that currently generates at around 63 percent of its capability. The power plant, which uses heavy oil to produce electricity, was built by the Soviets in 1979 and rebuilt by the Germans in 1989. Nearby is a natural gas plant that is also part of the facility, said 1st Lt. Josh Smith, a logistics officer with 1st Battalion, 2nd Infantry Regiment.

Some soldiers formerly operating out of FOB Iskan have been moved to nearby patrol bases so they still have a presence in the vicinity. Iskandariyah was once a hotbed of insurgent activity, but violence has dropped drastically in the area.

E-mail Steve Mraz at: mrzas@estripes.osd.mil



BEN BLOKER/Stars and Stripes

Pfc. Christopher Trumbull, of the 172nd Support Battalion, secures a cargo container for transport during a convoy early Tuesday morning at Forward Operating Base Iskan. U.S. forces will turn the base over to the Iraqi Ministry of Electricity within the month.

'Just because you're deployed doesn't mean you have to look like a ragbag'

By ERNESTO LONDONO
The Washington Post

MOSUL — Pfc. Cortez Hamilton of St. Louis smiled blissfully as a 20-year-old beautician from Kyrgyzstan rubbed lotion on his left foot after spending a half-hour scraping off dead skin.

"It relaxes you," the 29-year-old cavalry soldier said halfway through a recent pedicure at Forward Operating Base Marez in this still-volatile northern Iraqi city. "You just go to sleep and it feels so good."

Marez, after six years of war, has become a cosmopolitan city within a city. Soldiers can buy tailored suits and knockoff designer purses, cigars and DVDs, lattes and burgers. After a long day of soldiering, a 30-minute, \$17 back rub hits all the right spots. "If not a need, there's certainly a demand," said Maj. Amanda Emmens-Rossi, a frequent customer at the beauty salon. "You come here on the weekend, and there's always Joes lined up to get manis and pedis. Just because you're deployed doesn't mean you have to look like a ragbag."

Full-body massages are forbidden, to eliminate the possibility of sexual conduct between soldiers and salon employees. Soldiers in Iraq are prohibited from having sex with foreigners.

Mosul, the country's third-largest city, has attracted little investment in recent years. Its economy is in shambles. Its politics are a contact sport. Many of its neighborhoods are crippled by years of fighting. Insurgents determined to elude capture sleep in vests rigged with explosives.

But Aina Isaeva, 45, a nurse from Kyrgyzstan, didn't think twice when the opportunity arose to work in Mosul for a year as a beautician. U.S. defense contractors have brought thousands of laborers from Central and Southeast Asia, Africa, and Latin America to keep American military bases humming and servicemembers well fed and comfortable.

"Nurses earn very little money" back home, Isaeva said as she worked on the feet of a former infantryman now employed by a nonprofit organization. "I have two sons and a girl. And I am a widow. I need the work."

Hamilton, the private from St. Louis, works 12-hour shifts fueling military vehicles. He heard about the beauty salon from his friend Spc. Billy Scott, 33, of Washington, D.C., who says that living in a war zone is no excuse to let your hands and feet grow rough.



ERNESTO LONDONO/The Washington Post

Pfc. Cortez Hamilton gets a pedicure from Aina Isaeva at Forward Operating Base Marez in Mosul. Marez is a city within a city, a place to buy tailored suits, DVDs, lattes, burgers and back rubs.

In this dusty, arid base, where the temperature creeps well into triple-digit territory in the summer, walking into the beauty salon after a 12-hour shift is transporting. When Hamilton and Scott head to the salon, some of the other guys give them a hard time. "They say we're boyfriend and girlfriend," Scott said, with a chuckle. "He's a metrosexual," Hamilton shot back, pointing at his buddy.

If the naysayers only knew. "It makes you go into a different world," Scott said while Isaeva rubbed lotion on his hand as his manicure was coming to an end. "You get here, and your mind goes blank. You have a pretty lady doing your nails."

There's almost always a waiting list for pedicures and manicures. Soldiers leave their rifles on a blue rack behind the counter and watch music videos or read old magazines as they wait for their names to be called. The magic happens in the back of the shop, where the masseuses and beauticians work in small cubicles with pink curtains. Pedicures are \$7; the mani-pedi combo, \$11. Eyebrows are trimmed for \$3. Good old crew cuts are \$5.

After his pedicure was done, Hamilton slipped on a pair of white paper flip-flops as he waited for his feet to dry. "Oh, my feet look pretty," he exclaimed. "She did a nice job."

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IN THE WORLD

Pakistan prosecuting 8 in Mumbai attack

Minister acknowledges strike on India was planned in Pakistan

By STEPHEN GRAHAM
The Associated Press

ISLAMABAD — Pakistan acknowledged for the first time that the Mumbai terrorist attacks were launched from its shores and at least partly plotted on its soil, saying Thursday that it had arrested most of the chief suspects including one described as "the main operator."

Interior Ministry chief Rehman Malik said Pakistan has started criminal proceedings against eight suspects — some of them also named by India as the masterminds of the attacks — but he reiterated that authorities needed more evidence from New Delhi to secure convictions.

The revelations suggest Pakistan is serious about punishing

those behind the November attacks, which killed 164 people and stirred fear that the nuclear-armed neighbors could slide toward war and that Pakistan might be distracted from its struggle against the Taliban and al-Qaida.

India and the U.S. have pressed Pakistan hard to dismantle Lashkar-e-Taiba, a banned Pakistan-based group fighting Indian rule in the divided Kashmir region that is widely blamed for the Mumbai carnage. Islamabad and New Delhi have fought two out of their three wars since 1947 over the region.

India's Foreign Ministry called Pakistan's announcement "a positive development" and said it would consider Islamabad's request for further information.

Malik said investigators had traced a boat engine used by the attackers to sail from Pakistan to India and busted two hideouts of the suspects near the southern city of Karachi.

Other leads pointed to Europe and the United States, and Malik said Pakistan would ask the FBI for help.

"I want to assure the international community, I want to assure all those who have been victims of terrorism that we mean business," Malik said. "We will continue our investigation, but we want tenable evidence from India. We want full cooperation from India so that this kind of ring be smashed."

India says all 10 gunmen — only one of whom was captured alive

— were Pakistanis and that their handlers in Pakistan had kept in close touch with them by phone during the three-day assault.

New Delhi provided a dossier of evidence to Islamabad, testing Pakistan's insistence that it would do all in its power to punish those responsible — and that it has truly abandoned its past sponsorship of Islamist militants including the Taliban.

In Pakistan's first detailed response, Malik said criminal cases had been opened against eight suspects on charges of "abetting, conspiracy and facilitation" of a terrorist act. He said six of them were in custody, including Zakir-Rehman Lakhvi and Zarrar Shah, both Lashkar-e-Taiba leaders named by India as the master-



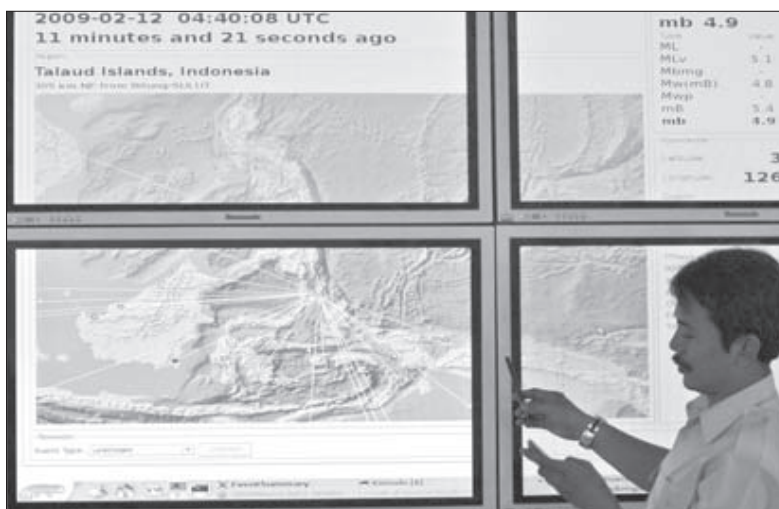
Pakistan's Rehman Malik

minds of the attack, and a person who sent an e-mail claiming responsibility for the attacks.

Malik said the culprits were "non-state actors," a phrase used by Pakistani authorities to counter allegations that its intelligence agencies had a hand in the attacks.

An Indonesian geologist stands near LCD screens displaying one of the aftershocks after a 7.2-magnitude quake that struck Talaud islands in Indonesia at the Meteorology and Geophysics Agency in Jakarta, Indonesia on Thursday.

TATAN SYUFLANA/AP



42 hurt by powerful quake near Indonesia

By NINIEK KARMINI
The Associated Press

JAKARTA, Indonesia — Strong aftershocks continued to follow a powerful earthquake off eastern Indonesia that briefly triggered a tsunami warning Thursday, causing a stampede of residents to higher ground. Hundreds of buildings were damaged and at least 42 people injured, some seriously.

The U.S. Geological Survey said the shallow, 7.2-magnitude quake struck off Sulawesi island's coast at around 1:34 a.m., shaking people from their sleep.

Indonesia is prone to seismic upheaval because it is located on the so-called Pacific "Ring of Fire," an arc of volcanoes and fault lines encircling the Pacific Basin.

Dozens of aftershocks as strong as magnitude 6.4

still shook the region late Thursday.

The Talaud island chain, in waters just south of the Philippines, felt the earthquake most intensely, said Rustam Pakaya, a government crisis center official, adding that Melonguane and Kabaruan were the towns hardest hit.

Nearly 500 buildings were damaged, including several schools, hospitals and churches, he said. Of the 42 people receiving medical care, 10 suffered serious injuries. Thousands of others were seeking refuge in shelters.

The quake briefly triggered a tsunami warning. That was lifted about an hour later after the threat of killer waves had passed.

"We were so afraid," said Damian Geruh, a Melonguane resident who described women screaming as they fled their homes. "We ran to a nearby hill. I saw others climbing trees."

Reformer criticizes Iran's hard-line president

TEHRAN, Iran — The top reformist candidate in Iran's presidential race has criticized hard-line President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad over the country's international isolation.

The comments were the first by Mohammad Khatami about

the president since Khatami entered the race last weekend.

They signaled that his campaign will likely focus on Iranians' worries that Ahmadinejad's fiery anti-Western rhetoric has worsened the country's status in the world at a time when Iran is suffering economic woes.

Khatami, a liberal cleric who was president from 1997-2005,

told a group of his supporters that "the current situation in the country is not desirable," according to Khatami's Web site.

Khatami warned at the meeting late Wednesday that if the situation continues, the country's "social capital and international reputation will be damaged even more."

From The Associated Press

Interpol issues alert for 85 alleged terrorist suspects

The Associated Press

PARIS — Interpol put out an international security alert Tuesday for 85 alleged terrorist suspected of plotting attacks against Saudi Arabia in the largest single batch of wanted notices ever sent to police agencies worldwide.

Saudi authorities asked Interpol for help in locating the 83 Saudis and two Yemenis after releasing a new most-wanted list last week. Documents profiling the suspects show that they include a man married to Osama bin Laden's daughter and another who was suspected of involvement in a plot to kill the U.S. ambassador in Yemen.

Interpol, based in Lyon, France, said the men are all wanted on terrorism-related charges, in-

cluding links to al-Qaida in Saudi Arabia, Iraq and Afghanistan.

It was the first time the international police agency has issued a single so-called orange notice for so many suspects at once. An orange notice is sent to all of Interpol's 187 member countries and includes identifying details of each suspect to aid in arrests.

Interpol did not release details about the suspects.

Documents profiling the men obtained by The Associated Press in Saudi Arabia show that many are suspected of taking part in planning attacks targeting oil or security installations, or provided al-Qaida members with weapons and money. All are believed to be hiding abroad, many in neighboring Yemen.

China bears down on dissent

The Associated Press

BEIJING — Days before China's human rights record comes under scrutiny before a key U.N. panel, the government's grip on dissent seems as firm as ever.

Government critics have been rounded up and some imprisoned on vaguely defined state security charges. Corruption whistleblowers have been bundled away, while discussion of sensitive political and social topics on the Internet remains tightly policed.

On Friday, officers stationed outside a government building in Beijing took away at least eight people — members of a loosely organized group of 30 who had traveled to the capital from around the country, seeking redress for various problems, almost all of them involving local corruption.

The review by the U.N. Human Rights Council, which begins

Monday, is part of a new process that evaluates member countries in an effort to prompt improvements and address violations. The council, which replaced the discredited U.N. Human Rights Commission, has no enforcement powers, but is supposed to act as the world's moral conscience on human rights.

Following the review, the three-nation working group composed of Canada, India, and Nigeria will submit a report of their findings.

The stakes are high for China, one of five permanent members of the U.N. Security Council, which wants to be seen as a responsible player in the international community. At the same time, the Communist leadership is worried about its grip on power slipping as the economic downturn and rising unemployment threaten to aggravate social unrest.

Australia eyes fire warning plan

YEA, Australia — Australia vowed to push through stalled plans for a national fire warning system on Thursday, though questions remain over whether coordinated alerts could have saved lives in the country's worst-ever wildfires.

Police released two men who had been taken in for questioning after they were reported acting suspiciously in an area burned out by last weekend's fires.

Authorities say some of the fires that ravaged Victoria state last weekend and killed at least 181 people were the result of arson. Officials said the death toll could exceed 200.

Pope will visit Israel in May

VATICAN CITY — In a message aimed at easing the rancor over a bishop's denial of the Holocaust, Pope Benedict XVI on Thursday called the slaughter of 6 million Jews a crime against God, and the Vatican said he would make his first visit to Israel in May.

The pope met with about 60 American Jewish leaders on Thursday and assured them the Catholic Church was "profoundly and irrevocably committed to reject all anti-Semitism."

The furor blew up after Benedict lifted the excommunication of a traditionalist bishop who denied the Holocaust, sparking outrage among Jews and Catholics alike. The Vatican said Benedict did not know about the views of Bishop Richard Williamson when he agreed to lift the excommunication.

Dozen arrested in hotel fire

BEIJING — Police in China's capital have detained 12 people over a massive hotel fire at a government television complex sparked by an unlicensed fireworks display, the official Xinhua News Agency reported Thursday.

The blaze Monday night destroyed the unfinished Mandarin Oriental hotel in the capital's western district, leaving one firefighter dead and seven other people injured.

Four China Central Television staff members and eight employees of the company hired to set off the fireworks were detained on suspicion of causing the fire, the Xinhua News Agency reported.

China probes new melamine scandal

BEIJING — China is investigating milk products produced by one of the country's largest dairies and a unit of France's Groupe Danone SA for an unapproved additive and melamine. Both companies insisted their products were safe.

The Shanghai Municipal Bureau of Quality and Technical Supervision said Thursday in a one-sentence statement that the bureau was looking into "the quality and safety of Dumex milk powder" but did not give other details. The Mengniu Dairy Group Co. is being investigated by China's quality watchdog for an unapproved protein additive one of its lines of milk.

Last year, at least six Chinese babies died and nearly 300,000 were sickened with kidney stones and other problems by milk tainted with the chemical.

From The Associated Press

Rivals split vote in Israel

Joint government is possible; hard-liners win majority of seats

By MARK LAVIE
The Associated Press

JERUSALEM — Final results from Israel's election, announced Thursday, leave the Kadima Party of moderate Foreign Minister Tzipi Livni with a slight lead over Benjamin Netanyahu's hawkish Likud, but the hard-line bloc in the new parliament would have the power to stymie Mideast peace efforts.

Kadima will receive 28 seats in the 120-seat parliament and Likud 27, far less than the majority each would need to govern. Livni and Netanyahu are already hard at work trying to line up potential coalition partners.

Israel's Election Commission released the final results Thursday evening after counting votes by soldiers, prisoners and diplomats, about 100,000 out of a total of 3.3 million cast. The additional votes did not change the allocation of seats in the parliament tallied after the Tuesday election.

The hawkish bloc headed by Likud, including the third largest party, Avigdor Lieberman's Yisrael Beiteinu Party, controls 65 seats, giving Netanyahu the edge in coalition building. However, each party has its own agenda, and getting them all to sit around the same Cabinet table is far from automatic.

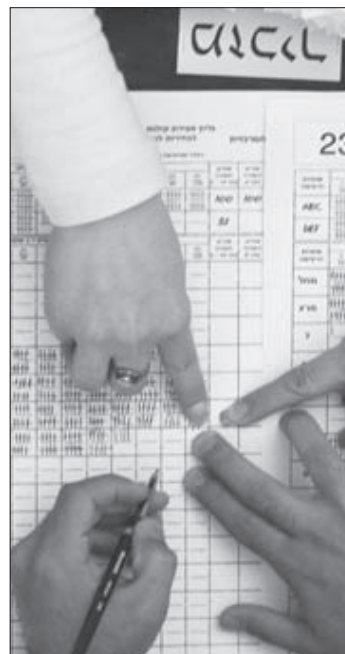
So both Livni and Netanyahu are promoting the idea of a joint "national unity" government. In the most likely

scenario, Netanyahu would be the prime minister, and Kadima would be allocated important government ministries like finance, defense or foreign affairs. Together the two parties would approach a parliamentary majority, reducing the bargaining power of the smaller factions as potential coalition members.

Lieberman's party won 15 seats. He hopes to redraw Israel's borders to push areas with heavy concentrations of Israeli Arabs outside the Jewish state and under Palestinian jurisdiction. Those who remain would be forced to sign an oath of loyalty to the Jewish state to maintain the right to vote or run for office. If Likud and Kadima team up, Lieberman's ability to force such radical changes would be cut.

But the hawkish makeup of the parliament — and Netanyahu's own opposition to peace treaty talks with the Palestinians — could dictate Israeli refusal to move toward an accord. That could put the new Israeli government into conflict with the Obama administration, as President Obama has pledged to put Mideast peacemaking high on his agenda.

Last month Obama sent his special Mideast envoy, George Mitchell, on his first tour of the region. Mitchell is on record as favoring talks toward a peace treaty and opposing expansion of Israeli settlements in the West Bank.



BERNAT ARMANGUE/AF

Israeli election workers count ballots from soldiers and absentees at the Knesset in Jerusalem. Final results of the elections were released Thursday.

Netanyahu disagrees on both issues.

Next Wednesday the election results will be published in the official government journal, and then the formal clock starts ticking toward formation of a new Israeli government.

Electronics maker Pioneer cutting thousands of jobs

By SHINO YUASA
The Associated Press

TOKYO — Japanese electronics company Pioneer Corp. will cut 10,000 jobs globally to cope with sinking sales of car audio equipment and flat-screen TVs. It will also withdraw from its money-losing plasma display business.

The massive job cuts, announced Thursday, are the latest from Japanese corporate giants, which are slashing their payrolls worldwide, reducing production and forecasting annual losses amid a global economic slump. Sony Corp. is shedding 8,000 workers while Nissan Motor Co. and NEC Corp. are each cutting 20,000.

Hit by the collapse in demand for car audio equipment and plasma TVs, Pioneer said its net loss in the current fiscal year to March will swell to \$1.4 billion. It would be the fifth straight annual net loss for Pioneer.

The Tokyo-based company said it will slash 6,000 full-

time salaried workers at home and abroad, accounting for 16 percent of the company's global work force of 36,900.

It will also cut 4,000 contract workers at its Japanese and foreign plants. It did not give a regional breakdown.

Pioneer is also shutting two overseas plasma display assembly plants — one in Pomona, Calif., and the other in Castleford, Britain — by April. Some 350 employees at the two factories — 130 in the U.S. and 220 in Britain — are part of the 10,000 people subject to job cuts, said company spokeswoman Ema Suzuki.

The factory closures are part of the plan to withdraw completely from the display business by March, 2010, as the company concluded that it would be impossible to turn around the display business.

Pioneer reported a net loss of \$290.52 million for the October-December quarter, nose-diving from a profit of \$18.76 million the previous year. Operating revenue declined 37.8 percent to \$1.46 billion.

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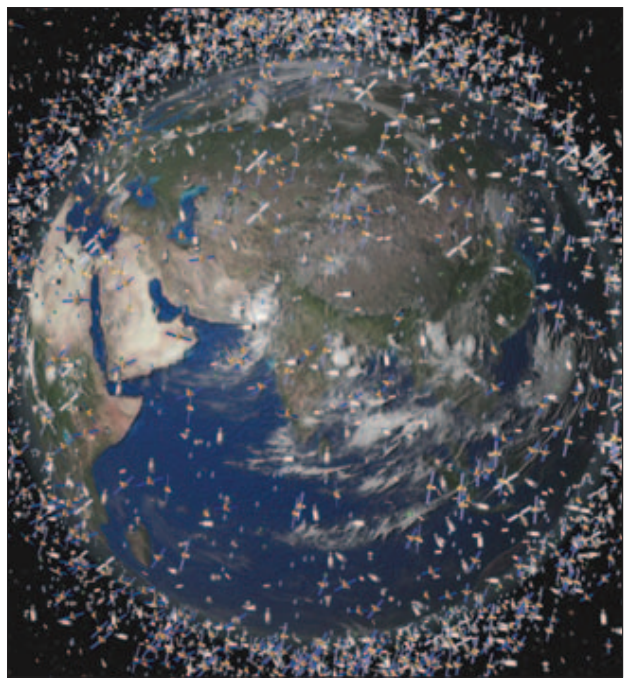
48 1/2 FOOT BIG-FOOT BEAR

His T-Shirt Says: "SOMEONE IN THE ARMY LOVES YOU"

IN THE STATES

Satellites crash 500 miles above Earth

Russian, American debris threat to other orbiters



European Space Agency

An artist's impression of catalogued objects in low-Earth orbit. Scientists are keeping a close eye on orbital debris created when two communications satellites smashed into each other hundreds of miles above Siberia.

By DOUGLAS BIRCH AND
VLADIMIR ISACHENKOV

The Associated Press

MOSCOW — The collision between U.S. and Russian communication satellites this week — the first such crash in space — has created speeding clouds of debris that threaten other unmanned spacecraft in nearby orbits, Russian officials and experts said Thursday.

The smashup 500 miles over Siberia on Tuesday involved a derelict Russian spacecraft designed for military communications and a working U.S. Iridium satellite, which serves commercial customers as well as the U.S. Department of Defense.

In a statement Thursday, Iridium, based in Bethesda, Md., denied that it was responsible for the crash.

The collision scattered space debris in orbits 300 to 800 miles above Earth, according to Maj. Gen. Alexander Yakushin, chief of staff for the Russian military's Space Forces.

But Igor Lisov, a prominent Russian space expert, said Thursday he did not understand why NASA's debris experts and

Iridium had failed to prevent the collision, since the Iridium satellite was active and its orbit could be adjusted.

"It could have been a computer failure or a human error," he said. "It also could be that they only were paying attention to smaller debris and ignoring the defunct satellites."

Lisov said the debris may threaten a large number of earth-tracking and weather satellites in similar orbits.

"There is a quite a lot of satellites in nearby orbits," he said. "The other 65 Iridium satellites in similar orbits will face the most serious risk, and there numerous earth-tracking and weather satellites in nearby orbits. Fragments may trigger a chain of collisions."

Both the U.S. Space Surveillance Network and Russian Space Forces are tracking the debris.

NASA said it would take weeks to know the full magnitude of the crash, but both NASA and Russia's Roscosmos agencies said there was little risk to the international space station and its three crew members.

"There is no immediate danger, but we will carefully monitor

the situation," Russian Mission Control spokesman Valery Lyndin said.

He noted the station's orbit has been adjusted in the past to dodge space debris.

The space junk also poses no threat to the space shuttle set to launch Feb. 22 with seven astronauts, U.S. officials said, though that issue will be reviewed.

The Iridium orbiter weighed 1,235 pounds, he said, and the decommissioned Kosmos-2251 military communications craft weighed nearly a ton. The Kosmos was launched in 1993 and went out of service two years later in 1995, Yakushin said.

Some Soviet-built, nuclear-powered satellites long out of action in higher orbits may also be vulnerable to collisions, Lisov said. If one of them collides with the debris, the radioactive fallout would pose no threat to Earth, Lisov said, but its speeding wreckage could multiply the hazard to other satellites.

Nicholas Johnson, an orbital debris expert at the Houston space center, said the speeding junk could reach the orbit of the Hubble Space Telescope.

Execution opponents eye cost

By DEBORAH BAKER

The Associated Press

SANTA FE, N.M. — As cash-strapped states scrutinize spending, death penalty opponents are arguing that capital punishment is a waste of money.

"Everybody is thinking of the economic situation," said Richard Dieter, executive director of the Washington, D.C.-based Death Penalty Information Center. "So it's not surprising the death penalty is coming under the same spotlight."

Repeal efforts are under way in at least six other states of the 36 with capital punishment: Colorado, Nebraska, Montana, New Hampshire, Maryland and Kansas, the center said. The Kansas lawmaker who introduced a repeal bill suggested it as a way to help solve a projected \$199 million budget shortfall. Lawmakers "need to be thinking out of the box" to save money, according to state Sen. Carolyn McGinn.

The cost-effectiveness argu-

Stimulus package on track for final votes

WASHINGTON — Economic stimulus legislation at the heart of President Barack Obama's recovery plan is on track for final votes Friday in the House and Senate after a final round of bargaining that yielded agreement on tax cuts and spending totaling \$789 billion. Officials estimated it the tax cuts would mean come to about \$13 a week more in people's paychecks this year when withholding tables are adjusted in late spring.

From The Associated Press

ment has particular resonance in states such as New Mexico, where there have been so few executions, Dieter said. Opponents estimate abolishing the death penalty could save the state a few million dollars a year in costs for prosecutions and appeals.

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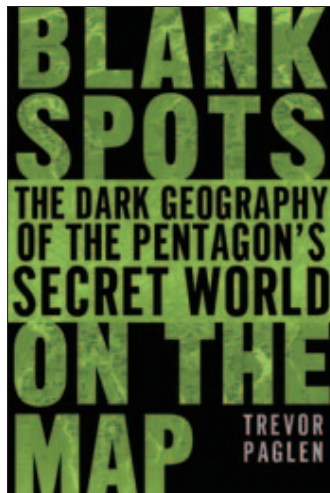
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—Andrew J. Bacevich, retired Colonel, author of the New York Times bestseller *The Limits of Power: The End of American Exceptionalism*

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Valentine's Messages



TSGT James K. Burnett

Happy Valentine's Day to the most amazing father and husband, TSGT James K. Burnett, from a family who loves and misses you, Laura, Scott and Michaela.

Laura Burnett

Shaw AFB, SC

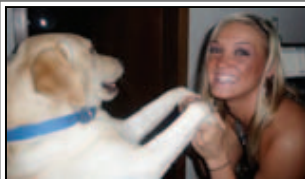


1LT Matthew Blumberg

Matt, thank you for making Korea amazing every day. Although I miss Gainesville like crazy, especially after missing the Gator football and basketball seasons, I know home is always where you are. With lots of love, Monica, GO GATORS!!

Monica Blumberg

Daegu, South Korea



SGT Vincent Spilotro

Happy Valentine's Day, Sgt. Spilotro!!! No words could express how much we love you!!! We are so proud of all that you have accomplished! We love you, Vinchenz! Love always, Rikki and Duke

Rikki Spilotro

Vilseck, Germany



Amanda Tirado

Dear Amanda, the day this pic was taken was a proud time for me. I was home from deployment in time to catch the birth of our firstborn, but the return of my ship back to home port. I love you and cherish every moment we share together. Love always, Tony

Anthony Tirado

Everett, WA



Phamela

Hello, Darling. Just want to wish you a very happy Valentine's Day. I miss and love you so much. We will be together soon. Love you always and forever,

Neal Fleisher

Daegu, Korea



Brian Minietta

Happy Valentine's Day, Brian! Faith, hope and love, but the greatest of these is love! It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. You are a wonderful man and an incredible boyfriend to me. Loving you is easy, Patti

Patricia

Georgia



MSGT S. Bradberry

Happy Valentine's Day, my love. Many women think they have that one special and unique man, but they're wrong because I do. Thank you for always being there for me, for being my best friend and the love of my life. God bless you always, baby. I love you!

Marisela Bradberry

Yuma, AZ



1LT Matthew Blumberg

Dear Matthew, happy Valentine's Day. Greetings from us all and especially JonLuke, who FINALLY caught the big one! Love, Mom, Jim, Patrick, JonLuke, Malika and all of us here. We miss you and will see you very soon!

Randy Lander

Fort Myers, FL



Phamela Donaire

Baby, I miss and love you so much, and want to hold you in my arms and tell you how much I love you. I will be in your arms soon. Happy Valentine's Day, my love. See you real soon. Love you forever and ever. Love always,

Neal Fleisher

Daegu, Korea



Michael Beach

Happy Valentine's Day. We love you forever.

Tamara

California



Dale Matthusen

Happy Valentine's Day, Dale!!!! Love, mom-in-law Jamie and sis-in-law Michaela

Jamie Vierk

Ft. Polk, LA



SGT Noel V. Enriquez

Happy Valentine's Day and birthday, Daddy! Mom says you should be coming home soon after being away for so long. We hope that your day is good, and we can't wait to jump all over you when you return to us. Love you, Lyca, Ashe and Ilana Enriquez

Roz Enriquez

Hawaii

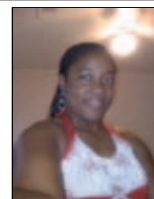


Snyder Ugalde

Happy Valentine's Day. We love you and miss you! Your wife and boys

Heather

Yokosuka, Japan



SGT Nicky Pettigrew and kids

Happy Valentine's Day, my sugar plums. Miss you all. Hope to see you soon. Love, your sis and Aunt Moshena

Moshena

Atlanta, GA

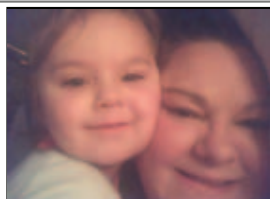


Joey Quichocho

Even when we are far apart, distance does not change the love I have for you in my heart. I miss you every day, but especially this Valentine's Day. I love you, Joey Quichocho, with all my life, being, heart and soul!!! Your wife, Vilma

Vilma Quichocho

Ft. Hood, TX



SGT Dean E. Spaans

Happy Valentine's Day. We love you and miss you. We are almost there -- you will be home soon. Hugs and kisses from both of us.

Cassandra and Hannah

Missouri

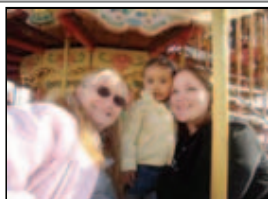


Robert Barthel

We just wanted to wish you a happy V-Day. This year we make four years as a family. There is no one who loves me the way you do. I love you more than anyone else. You mean the world to me. The kids are my stars and I am your sun ... our own universe.

Elena Barthel

San Diego, CA

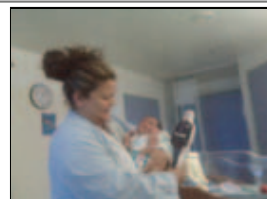


My family in Japan

Happy Valentine's Day to our loved ones. Love, Rebecca and Jaedyn

Rebecca

Atsugi, Japan



Ernesto Hernandez

Ernie, we love you so much. Thank you for what you do for us. No matter where you go, we will follow. From heaven to hell, we stand proud and tall to be called your wife and son. Hugs and kisses to our Papa Bear. Muah!!!!

Karmen Hernandez

Murrieta, CA



SFC Walter Gibbs

Happy Valentine's Day. We love you and miss you. Stay safe and we will see you soon. Love, Stacy, Lauren, Tyler and Sydney

Stacy Gibbs

Fayetteville, NC



Eun Yeung and Yeagee Brewer

You are the most important girls in the world!! I love you, Eun Yeung, and Mommy and Daddy will love you forever, Yeagee.

Dave Brewer

Yongsan, Korea



Yeagee Marie Brewer

Yeagee Marie Brewer, in just two days you will be a 1-year-old -- happy birthday! You are the queen of bald-headed babies. We love you.

Dave Brewer

Seoul, Korea

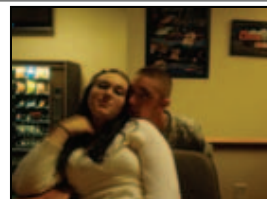


SGT Emanuel Lee McConnell

Hi, Dear. Happy Valentine's Day. We all love you. Be safe always. See you soon again. Merce

Merce McConnell

Philippines



Marc D. Gordon

Happy Valentine's Day, baby. I am sooo proud of you. I love you with all my heart. I'm so happy we are getting married. You're the best guy in the world and I am happy you're all mine, lol. I love you, baby!!! Forever your fatty girl beautiful KAG

Kristina

Colorado Springs, CO



Marc D. Gordon

Daddy, we love you very much. Happy Valentine's Day, Daddy. We are very proud of you, Daddy. Love you, Zack and Nancy

Nancy

Colorado Springs, CO

STARS AND STRIPES
Stripes

Valentine's Messages



Kayle and Alex Salas

Thank you for everything you've done. I miss you all so much. I want you to know that I'm so proud of you both. You're the best daughters that I could ever ask for. I LOVE YOU WITH ALL OF MY HEART!! Take care of your mother. See you soon! Your dad, Eddie
Eddie Washington

Camp Casey, Korea



CMSGT Eric McGowan

My love and best friend, my day brightens up just knowing that you are there, even if you're miles away. Your love makes my journey very easy. I want to be yours, not for a day, not for a year, but for a lifetime! Thanks for loving me! I love you, Cake.
MSGT Dionne Hodge

Germany



Phamela Donaire

Phamela, my love, I wish I had you in my arms this Valentine's Day, but it won't be long until you're in my arms and I will be able to look into your eyes and tell you how much I love you and I will never stop loving you as long as I live. Muahhhhhhhhh!
Neal Fleisher

Camp Walker, Daegu, Korea



SFC Nigel Fagaragan

My hubby Nigel, happy Valentine's Day. Thank you for all the love, talks, laughs, tears and comfort that we share every day. The girls and I love and miss you very much. Be safe. Don't worry about us -- we will stay strong and positive for you!
Janice Fagaragan

Honolulu, HI



Rosbin M. Garcia

Honey, we miss you and love you so much! We want you know that we can't wait to see you. Take care. The biggest hugs and kisses from your family.
Deborah Garcia

Hawaii



PFC Kimball

Dearest Adria, happy Valentine's Day 2009! We are so very proud of you! Our daughter, sister, our love, our Marine. OXOXOX Mom, Dad and Alana Mom
Mom

Danville, NH



1LT Alexander Mullin

Happy Valentine's Day! You are one amazing man, and I am so thankful to have you in my life. Even though we can't be together on Valentine's Day, you will be in my heart. I can't wait for you to come home. I miss you! You're the love of my life.
Kaitlin

Austin, TX



SGT John Thompson

Happy Valentine's Day, Babe! Wish you were here! I LOVE YOU SO MUCH! Be careful overseas -- all of us over here have you in our prayers! Big hugs and long kisses from me to you, always and forever! I LOVE YOU! Yours truly, Jenn
Jennifer Thompson

Ft. Hood, TX



CMSGT Eric "EYL" McGowan

Have a great Valentine's Day! I can't wait to see you again. Mommy and I are sending you a lot of air kisses. I love and miss you, Daddy! Love,
Alexa "CYE" Hodge

Germany



SPC Ned Moran

Hey, baby -- I miss you so much and I can't wait for you to come home to us. I'll be counting down the days until I can kiss you again! :P I love you forever or longer. Headder
Heather Moran

Ft. Hood, TX



SGT Schmidt

Happy Valentine's Day! Hope this is making your day a little happier. :) You will see us before you know it! :D Stay safe and be strong. OK? Love you and miss you! <3 Go ma! YeaahhhHHH!
Pyonx2 and little JJ

Japan



SPC Michael A. Bender

Michael, you are my once in a lifetime, and I am the luckiest wife in the world. I love you so much. I miss you incredibly and can't wait to have you home.
Tiffany Bender

Ft. Hood, TX



SPC Michael A. Bender

Daddy, we love you and miss you. Come home SAFE and SOON!!! You are our hero.
Michael and Matthew Bender

Ft. Hood, TX



CPT Matthew Mason

Hi, Babe. Happy Valentine's Day. You are my hero and you mean the world to me. You are always in my thoughts. Be safe and know that I miss you and love you with all my heart. See you soon!!! Yittle
Linnea Mason

Jacksonville, NC



Seth Wolthuis

Happy Valentine's Day, Seth! Mommy loves and misses you so much. I am always thinking about you.
SFC Misty Wolthuis

Taji, Iraq



Jennifer Fleisher

Happy Valentine's Day, Jennifer. I am so proud of you and very proud you are my daughter. Hope to see you soon, baby. Happy Valentine's Day. Love, Dad
Neal Fleisher

Daegu, Korea



SSGT Dustin McComas

Dustin, I hope you have a happy Valentine's Day! I love you and miss you, Hunny! You are always in my heart! Love, your wife
Becky McComas

Yokota Air Force Base



Richard and Audrey Snyder

I love you two so much! Audrey, you're almost 1, and you get more beautiful and precious every day. Richard, happy two-year wedding anniversary! May there be many more for us. Happy hearts day! xoxo
Jeanie Rose Snyder

Yigo, Guam



PFC Moncada

We don't always have as much time together as we'd like, but you are in my thoughts every minute of the day. I love you!
Angela Moncada

Colombia



Rick

Hey, Rick -- Just wanted to wish you a happy Valentine's Day. =) You'll always be in my heart.
Jessinia

Maryland



Shawndrika Hardie

Hey, love. Happy Valentine's Day and happy birthday. I love you and always will. I appreciate all that you do for me and our family. I am proud to have you in my corner, and though we are miles away from each other, I keep you close to my heart. Love you!
SPC Kristian Hardie

Baghdad, Iraq



AM1 Rob Wawro

Happy Valentine's Day, honey! I miss you so much, and wish you could be here! Almost there! I am and will always be very proud of you. I love you!
Sara Wawro

Virginia Beach, VA



ABFSN Michael L. Smith

I love you and you mean the world to me. I want to thank you for your dedication to this family, and I will always love you for that. I miss you and want to wish you a happy Valentine's Day!
Fawnne Smith

Norfolk, VA



AT3 Eric Hines

Happy Valentine's Day, Love! We are so proud of you! Sorry you can't be here with us, but we will think of you often! You're an amazing husband and father! We miss you! Can't wait to see you! We love you!! Whitney and Faylen
Whitney Hines

Oak Harbor, WA



Jennifer Fleisher

Jennifer, just want to wish my daughter a very happy Valentine's Day. Just wish I could be there with you. I miss you so much and I'm so proud of you. You're doing great in school -- keep up the good work. Your dreams will come true. Love always, Dad
Neal Fleisher

Daegu, Korea

STARS AND STRIPES
Stripes

Valentine's Messages



Sergio Martinez

We've been together for so long and I can still say "I love you" with all my heart. Thank you for everything, for your unconditional love and patience. I will love you forever. Happy Valentine's Day, my Curin.

Julissa

Okinawa, Japan



Mark

You are my forever love. I thank God daily for the gift of you in my life. I love you today more than yesterday; I vow to love you more with every passing day. I miss you. Be safe and hurry home. Today, tomorrow and forever yours,

Kathi

Suffolk, VA



SGT Mark E. Swecker

Hi, baby. I am so glad you are finally home!!! Man, now I can say that 15 months went by quickly. I just wanted to say that I love you as much if not more than when you left. I can't wait to start our lives together again. I'm so proud of you. I love you.

Ana L. Swecker

Ft. Lewis, WA



Ashley D. Peterson

Happy Valentine's Day, Baby Girl. Miss and love you! Mom

Mary Peterson

Philadelphia, PA



Michael J. Tode

Happy Valentine's Day to the best husband I could ever imagine. Thank you for being my one and only! You are the love of my life, always and forever.

Kelly Tode

Virginia Beach, VA



Rachel and Brittany Wegenast

To my beautiful girls: Although we are miles apart, you are always in my thoughts and prayers. Words can never express how proud we all are of you. Love, hugs and kisses from Mama and all the family. We love and miss you!!! Stay strong. Y'all are awesome!

Dena Wood

Houston, TX



Hector Rodriguez Jr.

To the world you may only be one person, but to one person you may be the world. I love you babe. I don't know what I would ever do without you. I'll be home soon and I'll spend the rest of my life making it up to you. Forever yours, Mrs. Coney Rodriguez

Coney Rodriguez

Al Taqaddum, Iraq



EOCA Daniel Parker

Hey, Babe! I am missing you dearly and so is everyone else, but you will be back before you know it. I am so proud of you and all the hard work you're doing. XoXoX

Rebecca

Antelope, CA



LCPL Jesus Contreras

Happy Valentine's Day, my love!!! I love and miss you!

Anita

Ft. Bliss, TX



CPL Joe Boucher

Hey, babe, I miss you so much and I'm so happy to be your wife. I hope you're staying safe. I can't wait to have you home next year so we can finally start living our lives after these two years apart. Happy Valentine's Day. I love you so much! Your Lycia

Lycia Boucher

New Hampshire



CW2 Juan M. Perez

I miss you every day you're gone and I can't wait to see you again. I am so thankful for you and our family and the love we share. Happy Valentine's Day. I love you so much.

Marie Perez

Killeen, TX



Brian

Hey, babe. I know you're loving this, but I had to do it! ;) You're a great guy, and in the littlest of ways make me fall in love with you again every day. I can't wait to see what's in store for us in the coming years, but know I'll always love you! XO XO

Holly

Misawa, Japan



LTC Keith Czelusniak

Dearest Keith, I will never in this lifetime be able to express how very much I love, honor and respect you. I am such a blessed woman to have your love. Thank you for loving the boys and me so completely and selflessly. Happy Valentine's Day. Love, Chris

Christina Czelusniak

Yongsan, South Korea



SGT Brandon Craven

I love you more than anything, baby, and I'm so excited to finally spend another Valentine's Day with you and our beautiful family. Know that you are our hero and we are thankful for you today and always!!!

Cindy Craven

Okinawa, Japan



SGT Christine Hamel

Remember your flip-flops; they are here waiting for you! You are missed every day for your smiles, generous heart and the laughter you add to all of our lives here on the Cape! God Bless! Love, Mom and the family

Cheri Carpenter

Cape Cod, MA

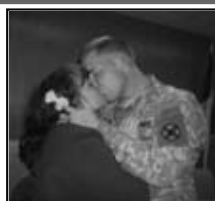


Yuki

You're one in a million, my most special one; your radiant smile is as bright as the sun; you're so cute and so sweet, and you glow like a pearl; I just love you so much, my most wonderful girl! Love always and forever, Pat

Pat Allbritton

Okinawa, Japan



Michael Reynolds

I love you. You're the best thing that's ever happened to me.

Bianca Reynolds

Killeen, TX



SPC Ronald Sagadraca

Happy Valentine's Day, my love! I can't wait for you to come home soon. Please be safe and may God watch over you, my love. I'm missing you like crazy. Love you long time, Babes. XO XO, Your wife

Grace Sagadraca

Ewa Beach, HI



Tessa Dengler

Tess, I love you. Thanks for being my supporter, confidante, lover and friend. You are vital in my life and I would not be whole without you. I love you with all my heart. Love, Steve

Steve Dengler

Yokota AB, Japan



Sarah and David Dengler

Sarah and David, Mommy and Daddy love you and we are so proud of you both! We are so glad we are your parents. We love you, Mommy and Daddy

Steve and Tess Dengler

Yokota AB, Japan



Tania Bryan

Tania, happy Valentine's Day. Love, Grandma and Frisky

Helen Morford

Zeilenople, PA



January

January, every day without you I realize more and more how much your love means to me. You are the best thing that has ever happened to me, and my heart beats for your embrace. Happy Valentine's Day to my beautiful queen, Elephant shoe!

Michael Andre

Afghanistan



CW2 Juan M. Perez

Daddy, we miss you and love you so much and wish you could be here. We are counting the days until you come home. Happy Valentine's Day!

Brandon, Brevin and Ava

Killeen, TX



SFC Dale Scott

Happy Valentine's Day, Baby! Sending lots of hugs and kisses from me and the girls. I will keep blowing those kisses in the wind and hope they make their way to you. Can't wait to see you again. Love, Cecilia, Sariah and Rhianna

Cecilia Pike

Covina, CA



Jerrell Likely

Jerrell, Pooh and I appreciate you. We couldn't have asked for a better father or husband. Your love and patience have always been there for us. Thanks for all you do. Happy Valentine's Day. Love always, Ebony and Amarria

Ebony Likely

Yongsan, Korea

STARS AND STRIPES®
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Valentine's Messages



LT COL Joseph Masterson

Dear Joe, just want to let you know we are thinking of you today, as we do every day. Happy Valentine's Day! Love, Mom and Dad

Tom and Marge Masterson

Pittsburgh, PA



Jorge Seda

Hi, baby! Happy Valentine's Day! Since you can't be here, I'm sending my love and kisses to you! I love you so much, and I'm so proud of what you have accomplished this under way. I love being your wife, and I would marry you all over again! Love you tons!

Amanda

Virginia Beach, VA



SGT Captain DeKoning

Happy Valentine's Day, my brave husband, my best friend, my confidant, my everything, our hero, daddy and jungle gym. We love you and miss you very much! XO XO, your patiently waiting ohana

Anela Dekoning

Hilo, HI



Damien Busick

I want to let you know how much I love you and how much I appreciate everything you do for our family. I wish we could spend this Valentines Day together, but we will just have to make the next extra special. I love you!

Cristin Busick

Schofield Barracks, HI

Dusty Wools

Dusty, go hog wild on Valentine's Day!!! Stay safe and return home soon! Gary and Gay

Gary and Gay Walton

Denison

Richard Belcher

Hi, Daddy. We just want to say happy Valentine's Day! We miss you very much and can't wait to see you during spring break. Love, Richard and Trevor

Samantha Belcher

Virginia

TSGT Dusty R. Wools

We hope you have a good Valentine's Day. We all miss you and cannot wait for you to come home. Love, Leigh-Allie, Heather, Harley and Toby

Leigh-Allie Wools

Minot AFB, ND

Wendysue

All my life I searched for my soul mate. I thank the Lord every day that He allowed me into your life. I love you, sunshine ... today, tomorrow and forever. Oh, and the boys (Travis and Jack) say they love you, too ... now turn "24" on.)

Jimmyray

Camp Kinser

Scott Staley

I can't tell you how proud I am of you. I love you so much and wish I could be with you every minute of every day. Can't wait 'til the day you come home and I am back in your arms again! I miss you. Happy Valentine's Day! Muah!! XO XO Love, your baby girl

Ashley Staley

Norfolk, VA

SSG Debray

We love you!!!! Happy Valentine's Day!
Rose Malinda and Andrew
Rt. Riley, KS

Tania Bryan

Tania, happy Valentine's Day! We are so proud of you! B.B. can't wait to meet you. Love, Mom, Dad and Victoria

Debbie Ehrhart

Vermilion, OH

MA1(SW) Erick Stokes

Hi, Daddy. Mommy, Devon and I wanted to wish you a happy Valentine's Day. We miss you and love you so much. You're the best daddy ever, and we can't wait until you come home. We love you infinity. Mommy, Angelina and Devon

Diana Stokes

Florida

Lana Clark

My Sweets Lana, I want to thank you for all that you have done for our family since I've been gone. This Valentine's Day you will surely be missed, but I will not spend another Valentine's Day without you. Love, your husband,

LeFonz

Al Taqqadum, Iraq

Marvelous

No one knows how to put me to sleep like you. Insomnia is setting in. I miss you. See you soon.

Princess

Europe

Neal Fleisher

Dad, I hope you have a good Valentine's Day! Thanks for being so supportive with school! I really appreciate it. You know I want to make you proud. No matter how old I get, I will always be your little girl! I love and miss you so much!

Jennifer Fleisher

Maryland

HK

Happy Valentine's Day, HK! I hope this is a cool surprise! I am sorry this is from a poor old man and not from a sexy young guy! But remember old guys think of cool stuff like this! Wish I could stop by more often, but the old DJ is busy!

Jeppaya

Korea

Joan

Joan, happy Valentine's Day 2009, Miss Sweet and Sexy Girl! I am always in Korea dreaming of you, just like Selenia! Someday you will get your chocolate and CD. But where is my chocolate? Mr. Sweet Guy

Mr. Sweet Guy

Korea

SFC John Zanella

Dear SFC Zanella, you make each day brighter with your smile and better with your keen sense of humor. Sending you a happy Valentine's Day from 5,000-plus miles away. Always in my thoughts, Joyce

Joyce Costello

Camp Darby, Italy

Lopez Family

Have a wonderful Valentine's Day. We miss you so much, Robert and Melissa. We hope to see you soon. We love you. Alexas, Americo and Laura

Laura Garcia

USA

Mrs. Heather D. Roberts

Dear Heather, I just want you to know on this Valentine's Day how much I love you. There are a million reasons I feel this way and they grow stronger each day. If I had just one wish, it would be to be with you until my last breath. I love you. Paul

LTC Paul Roberts

121 CSH

CPL SHG

Happy Valentine's Day and seven years, my love, my one and only!! See you soon, boy. I miss you but love you even more. xoxo Semper fi.

CEG

Virginia

ENG Yvonne Marengo

My dear daughter, you are a brave valentine. Thank you for defending our country. I'm so proud of you. I just can't wait for you to get home to celebrate Thanksgiving and Christmas. We have missed you dearly. I'll see you soon. Love you lots, lots, lots!

Amanda Marengo

Los Angeles, CA

Jovelyn

Thank you for bringing me back to life. You make every day a joy to me, and when I see your beautiful smile it always takes my breath away. I love you, heart and soul. MUAHAHHHH! Love, Michael

Michael

Camp Carroll

Adam Reinert

Baby, I know it's another Valentine's Day that passes us by and I can't see you, but you should always know that I am ALWAYS thinking of you. You're in my heart forever, this day especially. Love you always and forever!

Michaela Reinert

Norfolk, VA

Daniel Askew

Daniel, I just want to tell you that I love you very much and I pray that we have many more Valentine's Days to spend together. Love always, Dee

Demetria Askew

Yokota AB, Japan

UT2 CodyLee Russell

Happy Valentine's Day. We love you very much and are so proud of what you do. Even though you are far from us, you are close to our hearts. Love, Tristan, Rain, Cody, Shiyann and Tiffanie

Tiffanie Russell

Port Hueneme, CA

Penny

To my loving wife who has been with me the past 34 years: Through good and bad you were always there. I love you more today than ever before and will continue to do so. 100% sweetness. As always, your man

Floyd Wilson

Camp Carroll

Broward

Dad, happy Valentine's Day! We love you so much. Thanks for being the BEST Dad EVER!!!!!! Love, Cole and Mason

Yokosuka, Japan

1SG Jeffrey S. Hubbard

To the love of my life: I love you more today than yesterday. Life just continues to get sweeter than the day before. I love you, honey, and can't wait to see you. Love, Bel

Isabel Hubbard

Killeen, TX

Tracey Williams

Hi, Tracey. Happy Valentine's Day! We love you and miss you very much. Hurry home. Love, Dee and Clarence

Pasadena, CA

Murdock, Robert UT2

We are all proud of you. Wishing you were here, the best to you there! Love from all the Mur-Shann's. Blue Star Mother to USN Seabee Robert Utah Chapter 1 Pres.

Cathy Shannon

Utah

Annie Kelley

Hi, Mommie. I love you and miss you so much. You are my hero, and you mean everything to me. Keep safe and remember that I love you and will see you soon, and I miss you, too. XO XO, XOXO,

Brinna Kelley

Waverly, TN

Sunhwa Fenwick

Princess, I'll love you forever.

Big Bear

Doug Fenwick

Seoul

Wes Smith

Happy Valentine's Day! We love you. XOXO, Mindy and Tyler

Mindy Smith

Okinawa, Japan

MAJ Wayne Siebert

MAJ Siebert, to be a leader is far more important than just to be a good man. Leadership is the ability to make a goodness operate in the lives of others. Happy Valentine's Day. We miss you.

JV

Doha

Michael Benjamin

We love you and we miss you! Monica

Arizona

MSG Russell Wall

Russell, we are blessed to have you in our lives as such loving and responsible husband/father. There are no words to express the love that I have for you. You are the strength of our family. Continue to be blessed. Your wife,

Caroline Wall

Yongsan, Korea

Rochelle

Chelle, I love you with all my heart and I look forward to the spending the rest of our lives together. I hope you enjoy this special day. Happy Valentine's Day to the love of my life.

Junior Currie

Okinawa, Japan

SGT Noel V. Enriquez

Another year goes by and we are apart on this dual holiday. I love you and miss you. I hope you are already on a plane coming home to us on this, your birthday and Valentine's Day. See you soon!

Rosslynn Enriquez

Hawaii

Edward

Hunny Bunny, there is only one happiness in life, to love and be loved. Thank you for making me so happy. I can only hope I do the same for you. You are my best friend, my true love and my hero. I love you with all of my heart. Forever, your Babydoll

Angela

North Pole, AK

Eddie Espinosa

Happy Valentine's Day! Thanks for all that you do ... HOOOOORAH! (Not too bad for an Army Mom, huh?)

Anne Brionez

Albuquerque, NM

Kevin Slade

Hi, Kev. I wanted you to know that you are special all year 'round, but especially on Valentine's Day. Happy Valentine's Day! Love, Landa

Yulanda

Ft. Bliss, TX

MSG Andy Frye

Andy, you are the greatest thing that has ever happened to me and you have made my life complete. I can't wait to spend the next 58 years growing old with you and loving you like crazy!!! I LOVE YOU MORE, MORE and ALWAYS MORE!!!!!! Wanda

Wanda Frye

Ft. Campbell, KY

SWC

Hey, you. It's that time of year again, but I can never tell you enough how much I love you!! 1,000 times a day will never be enough. You are a wonderful provider, lover and friend. I love you always!!!

CPP

California

Joshua Martini

Hi, Josh. Have a happy Valentine's Day. Looking forward to your coming back to Texas!!!! Stay safe!!!!

Jerry Williams

USA

CPL Joshua Martini

Happy Valentine's Day! We miss you so very much. I don't think you could make us any prouder. Thank you so much for your willingness to serve your country. We will be awaiting your arrival back here in Texas!! Hurry home. Love, Mom and Mr. Wise

Teena Wise

Double Oak, TX

Rommel Plantinos

Rommel, I want you to know that I miss you with all my heart. I wish you could be here with me today. I love you today, tomorrow and always. I'm waiting for you to come back home! Happy Valentine's Day, Babe! Love, your one and only wife

Adriana Plantinos

Houston, TX

Stripes Military Moms, where women for whom family and service are intertwined can come to share, laugh and support one another.

<http://ww2.stripes.com/militarymoms>

Stripes

MILITARY MOMS



Okla. storm cleanup starts

By TIM TALLEY
The Associated Press

LONE GROVE, Okla. — Standing in a field of debris where mobile homes once stood, Sue Rose wondered how a half-mile-wide tornado could ravage nearly everything in sight and take so many lives but spare hers.

"I don't know how I made it," said Rose, who rode out Tuesday's storm in a trailer at the Bar K Mobile Home Park with family members.

"I tried to keep the kids calm. We just prayed," she said, fighting back tears Wednesday.

Rose's home was heavily damaged and dozens more were destroyed after a tornado with winds estimated at 170 mph ripped through Lone Grove just after dark Tuesday night.

The Oklahoma Department of Emergency Management reported eight deaths early Wednesday and Carter County Sheriff Ken Grace said a man who was injured in the storm and transferred to a Dallas hospital died later in the day.

Lone Grove City Manager Marianne Elfert said Thursday morning that search-and-rescue efforts were over. She said 10 to 15 people remain unaccounted for, but they are believed to have simply left the area.

Most utility service was restored by Thursday to the southern Oklahoma town of 4,600 people, and Federal Emergency Management Agency officials were assessing damage as the state worked through the process of seeking federal assistance for uninsured losses.

Sheriff's Deputy David Gilley said between 100 and 150 homes were destroyed in the town, located about 100 miles south of Oklahoma City.

President Barack Obama spoke to Gov. Brad Henry and Oklahoma Sens. Jim Inhofe and Tom Coburn and "passed along his



SUE OGROCKI/AP

Oklahoma Gov. Brad Henry, center, walks through a tornado-ravaged trailer park on Wednesday in Lone Grove, Okla., with Albert Ashwood, left, director of the state department of emergency management, and Col. Robbie Asher, chief of staff of the Oklahoma National Guard.

condolences and best wishes to the victims," White House press secretary Robert Gibbs said.

Most of the deaths occurred in the mobile home park, where no tornado shelter was available for residents to take refuge. In one case, a victim was found underneath a pickup truck the tornado had lifted and dropped on him.

On Thursday, Ginger Byrne looked for cherished possessions in a pile of rubble that used to be her mobile home. The tornado picked it up and dropped it about 100 feet north of where it had stood.

"I found my Bible, my mother's ring," Byrne said. "It's just stuff. I have memories in my heart."

It may take months, even years, before the community fully recovers, but Henry said state residents have "become very good at responding to disaster."

"Oklahomans have gone through this kind of disaster before," he said. "We know what we are doing. We will rebuild."

Feb. tornadoes rare, but not unheard of

February tornadoes are unusual, even in tornado-prone Oklahoma, but they are not unprecedented.

At least three tornadoes touched down in the state on Tuesday, including one blamed for eight deaths and dozens of injuries.

National Weather Service meteorologist Doug Spehger in Norman said Oklahoma has had 44 February tornadoes since 1950.

The most recent February twister before Tuesday's spurt occurred Feb. 25, 2000, in Tulsa. Last February tornadoes killed more than 50 people in Alabama, Arkansas, Kentucky, Mississippi and Tennessee.

From The Associated Press

Mortgage fraud suspect arrested

By DON THOMPSON
The Associated Press

SACRAMENTO, Calif. — A suspect in a nationwide mortgage fraud scheme who fled the country was caught at the Canadian border with \$1 million in Swiss bank certificates and \$70,000 stuffed in his cowboy boots, authorities said Wednesday.

Christopher J. Warren, 27, also was carrying four ounces of platinum valued at \$1,420 an ounce when he was arrested early Wednesday while entering the United States at Buffalo, N.Y.

After he disappeared Feb. 3, Warren was charged with conspiracy, fraud and conducting



Warren

a continuing financial crime. If convicted, he faces life in prison.

Warren is the second of three fugitives to be caught in the ongoing fraud investigation of Loomis Wealth Solutions, a Roseville, Calif.-based investment company, and several related companies.

Court documents alleged they defrauded investors and mortgage companies of \$100 million since 2006. The fraudulent deals involved 500 homes and condominiums in California, Florida, Nevada, Illinois, Colorado and Arizona, according to Internal Revenue Service affidavits.

Warren flew to Ireland on Feb. 3 on a chartered private jet, then traveled to Lebanon and Canada, acting U.S. Attorney Lawrence Brown said. Immigration officials were on the lookout for him when he took a taxi from Toronto to the border at Buffalo.

Authorities believe Warren also had brought to Lebanon \$4 million to \$5 million in gold.

Gays seek equal marriage rights



Micah Stanek, left, and Mitch Day of New York walk away Thursday after they were turned down for a marriage license at the Manhattan Marriage Bureau. The protests, part of the 12th annual Freedom to Marry Week, come in the wake of California's Proposition 8 vote that overturned gay marriage and just as the New York state Senate mulls legislation that could lead to legalized gay marriage.

RICHARD DREW/AP

Peanut scare prompting changes to food safety

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The salmonella outbreak is starting to change the way the government oversees the safety of peanut butter and other foods, health officials tell Congress.

Dr. Stephen Sundlof of the Food and Drug Administration told lawmakers Wednesday that agency inspectors will start to routinely collect samples for bacterial testing whenever they go into a facility. Currently that's done only if officials suspect a problem.

"We are changing that now as a result of this [outbreak]," Sundlof, head of the FDA's food safety



KEVIN CLARK/The Washington Post

Sammy Lightsey, left, plant manager, and Stewart Parnell, right, president of Peanut Corporation of America, are sworn in at a congressional hearing on the salmonella outbreak associated with peanut butter in Washington.

center, told the House Energy and Commerce investigations subcommittee. The panel is looking for ways to prevent another outbreak like the one that has sickened some 600 people and is being linked to nine deaths. More than 1,900 products have been recalled.

Peanut butter may also be

singled out for special attention. Sundlof said the government is weighing whether to designate it as a high-risk food.

That means producers would be required to follow written food safety plans to prevent contamination. Producers of juice and seafood already must take such precautions.

Gregg opts out of commerce post

WASHINGTON — Republican Sen. Judd Gregg of New Hampshire abruptly withdrew his nomination as commerce secretary, citing "irresolvable conflicts" with President Barack Obama's handling of the economic stimulus and 2010 census.

"We are functioning from a different set of views on many critical items of policy," Gregg said in a statement released by his Senate office.

Gregg, 61, is a former New Hampshire governor who previously served in the House. He has been in the Senate since 1993 and currently serves as the top Republican on the Senate Budget Committee.

Solis closer to Senate confirmation for post

WASHINGTON — Rep. Hilda Solis edged closer Wednesday to winning confirmation as the nation's next labor secretary, after more than a month of delays over questions about her husband's unpaid taxes and her work for a pro-union group.

The Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee cleared her nomination with only two Republicans voting against her. A committee vote scheduled last week was abruptly postponed after news that her husband had paid about \$6,400 to settle outstanding tax liens against his auto repair business.

From The Associated Press

He was held by immigration. She was divorced with grown sons. They met in a detention center.

An improbable love

By HELEN O'NEILL
The Associated Press

JERSEY CITY, N.J.

Pradeep Thapa bounded off the plane clutching his seven books and his journalistic credentials, his heart filled with anticipation and pride.

So when immigration officers at Newark Liberty International Airport refused Thapa entry, slapped him in handcuffs and shackles and locked him in a prison-like building with 300 other immigrants, the 31-year-old Nepalese poet assumed it was all a huge mistake.

If anything, Thapa submitted to handcuffs and donned the drab gray prison uniform with a swelling sense of pride. So this was the other face of America, he thought, where they imprison writers just like authorities did during the civil war in Nepal. He figured he would be released soon enough and then he would write about his

experience. What were a few nights behind bars for the biggest scoop of his life?

But as nights turned into weeks and weeks into months, the loneliness, monotony and monstrous sense of injustice began to wear the poet down. Immigration officials accused him of violating his visitor visa by planning to sell his books — something Thapa says never crossed his mind. And so he waited for his case to be decided, pining for his family, his books, for fresh air — to be addressed by his own name, not just his bunk number.

It was as if he didn't exist.

And then, after seven months of imprisonment, he began to exist like never before.

A woman walked into his life. She had short white hair and soft white skin and blue eyes that sparkled with intelligence and mirth. She wore colorful skirts and blouses and jewelry. She brought bouquets of roses from her garden. She laughed and she sang and her joyful presence lit up the cold, sterile visitors room, where a grimy glass partition separates the imprisoned from the free and the only communication between the two is by phone.

The prisoner poet and his unlikely visitor fell deeply, impossibly in love.

Romance was the last thing on Margaret Carne's mind when she drove to the Elizabeth detention center in January 2002. Long divorced, her two sons raised, she embraced her busy life in her restored Victorian row house in Jersey City.

With her thriving psychotherapy practice, a wide circle of friends, her Quaker meetings, her books, her singing lessons and her garden, the sixty-something Carne felt comfortable and fulfilled.

A social worker friend told her about a visitation program, and about one unusual detainee; Carne agreed to go.

"He's a writer and poet and he really needs someone to talk to," Carne's friend said. "He's in bad shape."

She spotted him as soon as she entered the room, a small, slender man with milk-chocolate colored skin and serious brown eyes, his dark hair pulled back in a pony

tail. He seemed so sensitive, she thought, and so sad.

Gently she asked him about his family, his work, his country. It was the first time since his imprisonment that anyone had shown a genuine interest in him. Thapa broke down and cried.

That night, he sat on his bunk and wrote a letter thanking her for the visit. "Dear Madam ...," he began.

She came again the following week, and again, and soon his Dear Madam was visiting several times a week.

He wrote her love poems, the first poetry he had ever written in English.

"O my dear/ this is not just a letter/ every time it liberates me/ My heart. My spirit./ And my mind/ no longer locked up/ it slips through the words/ that I'm writing you."

She gathered flowers from her garden — bleeding hearts and clematis — and pressed them between the pages of the letters to "My Sweet Poet."

An immigration judge had ordered his removal, saying she didn't believe the reasons for his visit.

Thapa genuinely feared returning to Nepal. There had been a royal massacre in June 2001 and journalists were being targeted and killed.

The tension added urgency to their letters, to their love.

Dear Madam soon became Dear Margaret and then Dearest Margaret and finally Dearest Meri, the pet name that Thapa bestowed upon her. Meri, he explained, means "my own" in Nepalese.

Immigration officials refused to allow Thapa to leave Elizabeth. He could only be deported.

"Marry me, Pradeep."

On a sweltering day in August, over the phone, in the steamy visiting room of the Middlesex County Jail, Carne proposed. She was scared, but she was sure.

Thapa's heart and head were in turmoil. He loved his Meri more than anything, had never felt so certain of his feelings. But he had nothing to offer. He had no money, no job. If he was deported, he might end up in jail in Nepal. And so Thapa shook his head. It was impossible, he said. She would always be his best friend, but he didn't

want to cause her more suffering.

"I will suffer more if you say no," she said.

So he asked for a week to think about it.

In place of the counsel of his family, he sought that of other detainees. Behind bars they assembled to comfort the poet. And they offered this advice.

"Marry for love," said his friend from India, who was about to be deported. "Come to India and my wife and I will arrange your wedding."

And that is what he decided to do.

Shaking with nerves, Carne picked up the phone.

Have you made a decision?

Thapa nodded. Ever so slowly, he whispered, "Yes."

A week later he was deported.

Two months later — in a Hindu temple in Punjab, India, — they wed.



PHOTO BY MEL EVANS/AP

PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY BEV SCHILLING/Stars and Stripes



Obamas deeply in love — and on display

By JOCELYN NOVECK
The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Just in time for Valentine's Day, it's the season of the PDA in the White House — and we're not talking about President Barack Obama's prized BlackBerry. The first couple's constant Public Displays of Affection have many people across the country fascinated, charmed and even a little jealous of this 21st-century White House marriage.

To many, the Obama marriage represents a modern kind of White House romance: Two people who've both had important careers, who are trying to balance professional success with family stability, who are both playful with each other and mutually respectful, and who aren't afraid to display their affection and chemistry — again and again.

Remember when she leaned in for a quick snuggle as they walked the parade route together on Inauguration Day? It was gone in a flash, yet the photo made

front pages across the country. Or the widely documented moment on Election Night in Chicago's Grant Park, when the two embraced, he whispered something into her ear and she whispered back: "I love you."

Then there was inauguration night, when the two closed their eyes and somehow managed to dance as if they were alone, not at the center of thousands of popping flashbulbs. YouTube clips of them dancing are accompanied by gushy comments like: "This is soooooo romantic! I've DVR'd it on my TV."

From the floor at the Obama Home States Ball, Kirk Dillard, an old friend of Obama's from their years together in the Illinois legislature, marveled at what he was seeing.

"Just looking at Michelle and the president having fun up there on the stage — you could tell they were having the time of their lives," says Dillard, a Republican state senator, who like Obama commuted between Chicago and Springfield, Ill.

"Michelle and Barack have always been madly in love, they've always been best friends, and she's always been his closest confidante. Their relationship has remained constant at all levels, and it's wonderful to see."

Joanna Coles, editor of the women's magazine Marie Claire, sees the Obamas as the first in the White House to really represent a modern couple making it work, with all the tradeoffs and turn-taking that implies.

"I think it is fantastically inspiring."

And, Democrat or Republican, it's hard to ignore that this president, when it comes to affairs of the heart, has his priorities straight.

"First of all," he said to the crowd at the first inaugural ball, "How good looking is my wife?"

Barack and Michelle Obama are setting a new standard for presidential PDAs.

Morry Gash/AP



FROM THE STAGE TO THE SCI-FI

Actor Chris Evans on becoming the new face of the sci-fi thriller

By ALICIA LOZANO

Los Angeles Times

HOLLYWOOD — Spending three months in Hong Kong shooting the frenetic science-fiction thriller "Push" was more difficult than Chris Evans expected.

There's the fact that he doesn't speak the language or even particularly like Chinese food. Then, as the film's lead, he worked almost every day while his co-stars, including 14-year-old Dakota Fanning, were free to sample the electric city vibe and travel the country's scenic landscapes. But the worst of it was that he was separated from his beloved American bulldog, East, who normally hangs around on-set with Evans as he works.

"Look at that guy!" he said, whipping out his BlackBerry at a San Fernando Valley restaurant and thumbing through photo after photo of the white hound like a proud new father. "He's the greatest thing in the world!"

Growing up in a Boston suburb, he didn't spend his time reading comic books or consuming science-fiction novels and films, so who would have guessed he'd build such a formidable resume in the genre that failed to capture his imagination as a child?

And yet, a decade after moving to

Los Angeles, the gregarious 27-year-old — best known for burning up the screen as Johnny Storm in 20th Century Fox's "Fantastic Four" franchise — is starring in yet another sci-fi thriller, this time as the telekinetic Nick Gant, a "mover," in the argot of the film, who grudgingly joins a rogue group of expat psychic warriors united in bringing down a shadowy military agency attempting to harvest their abilities for supernatural warfare.

In "Push," which opened in the U.S. last week, Evans' character can move things with his mind. It was a new skill to master for the reluctant action hero, who has burst into flames as the Human Torch and raced to save the planet in Danny Boyle's underrated 2007 space odyssey, "Sunshine."

Working with Boyle made boarding a soundstage spaceship seem less ridiculous to the would-be thespian (Evans studied theater in high school and moved to New York in search of the stage right after graduation).

"Whether he's making a movie or wants to handle my finances, I'd be like, 'All right, I trust him,'" the actor said of Boyle.

When Evans learned that Fanning had signed on to co-star in "Push" as a clairvoyant runaway, he brushed off all

sci-fi fatigue and got to work.

"It's humbling to meet someone who was born in the '90s — the '90s! — who has a more sophisticated vocabulary than you do," he marveled. "She's like 34. I want to see her ID."

Just before the "Push" shoot, he'd spent three months in Louisiana filming Tennessee Williams' "The Loss of a Teardrop Diamond," in which he plays Jimmy, a down-and-out urchin who captures the heart of reclusive debutante Fisher Willow (Bryce Dallas Howard from "Spider-Man 3").

Although he always has admired the Southern playwright, spending so much time away from home on back-to-back projects really took it out of him.

"Sometimes you would be sitting in those little buses losing your mind," he said. "It felt like work."

Then he realized that even with the inconveniences, he still has it pretty good.

"I'm splitting hairs," he said. "I'm still making movies."



Chris Evans and Dakota Fanning star in "Push," a sci-fi thriller that involves a group of young American ex-pats with telekinetic and clairvoyant abilities, hiding from a clandestine U.S. government agency.

Photos by Summit Entertainment



Chris Evans

Will Smith named most bankable star

Will Smith was voted the most bankable star in Hollywood in a survey of industry professionals by Forbes.com.

The financial magazine's Web site gives the actor a score of 10 out of 10 for his bankability in its first "star currency" list, compiled by surveying more than 150 industry professionals.

Following Smith on the list: Angelina Jolie, Brad Pitt, Johnny Depp and Leonardo DiCaprio, who all tied for second with a score of 9.89.

Smith's superior box-office clout has been long established. He's known for "owning" the July Fourth weekend box office.



Smith

'Sopranos' Pastore settles assault suit

Vincent Pastore of "The Sopranos" fame settled a \$5.5 million lawsuit accusing him of assaulting his ex-fiancee.

The settlement was announced Tuesday just before Pastore, 62, was to testify for the second day in Manhattan's state Supreme Court in the assault trial filed by Lisa Regina, 47.

Lawyers for both sides said the terms of the settlement were confidential.

Pastore, who played gregarious, genial mob killer Salvatore "Big Pussy" Bonpensiero on the hit HBO series, said little as he left court.

In her 2006 lawsuit, Regina said that Pastore attacked her on April 2, 2005, after they began a car trip to New Jersey, punching her, grabbing her hair and forcing her head down on the car's gear shift. Pastore pleaded guilty later that year to attempted assault.

Mandy Moore and Ryan Adams engaged

Singer-actress Mandy Moore and rock singer Ryan Adams are engaged.

Moore's publicist Jillian Fowkes confirmed to that the two are planning to wed. No details were announced.

The 24-year-old Moore started out as a squeaky-clean teen singer and later crossed into movies with featured roles in such films as "License to Wed," "A Walk to Remember," "Saved" and "American Dreamz."

Adams, who played in the band Whiskeytown during the 1990s before turning solo, is known for his song "New York, New York," which appeared on his album "Gold," released in 2001.



Moore

YOUR MONEY

Credit unions wary of surprise 'bailout tax'

Federal credit unions, including those serving millions of military patrons, are fighting to keep off their books nearly \$5 billion in charges that regulators have assessed to bail out their largest "corporate" credit union. The U.S. Central Federal Credit Union was in danger of insolvency due to losses on mortgage-backed securities until regulators adopted a bailout plan Jan. 28 that would be financed by 7,900 member-based credit unions.

"If we were to allow something to happen to U.S. Central, the impact on the industry would have been devastating," said Michael E. Fryzel, board chairman of the

National Credit Union Administration.

But Fred Becker, chief executive for National Association of Federal Credit Unions in Arlington, Va., said NCUA's "premiums" on member credit unions, unless lowered by September when scheduled to take effect, "would drive most of the industry's income into the red" for calendar 2009.

Fryzel conceded that some smaller credit unions have warned that their part of the "bailout tax," as some call it, would leave them undercapitalized, threatening their viability. Fryzel said none of these credit unions serve military populations. In any case, NCUA will "work with them," he said,

MILITARY UPDATE

Tom Philpott

to ensure the special assessment doesn't have such a dire effect.

Credit union officials say there is no reason for members to fear for their deposits. Individual accounts are insured by the government for up to \$250,000. Military credit unions contacted for this column said they don't even expect the bailout tax to force them to lower member interest rates paid on savings accounts or to raise interest charges for loans or

mortgages.

However, other customer services could be affected. That might include, said one official, a smaller work force to run customer call centers or delays in opening new branches or renovating old ones. Some credit union officers clearly were upset at the NCUA board for deciding on a bailout plan for U.S. Central before discussing alternatives with them.

"We do not believe that the federal agency has a moral and ethical right to steal our members' capital," said Frank Pollock, chief executive of the Pentagon Federal Credit Union.

This credit union expects to take a \$44 million hit, losing a third of its earnings this year, if the bailout plan stands.

Cutler Dawson, CEO of Navy Federal Credit Union, the largest credit union in the country with 3.2 million members and \$36 billion in assets, called the bailout plan "unacceptable and untenable." Dawson estimates that his credit union would see return on assets fall by \$80 million this year and by a total of \$280 million over three years.

Credit unions are popular alternatives to banks. They are owned, in effect, by their depositors. Without corporate profits or shareholders to worry about, credit unions can offer higher interest rates on savings accounts and charge lower rates for mortgages, auto loans or other financial help.

Because many credit unions are too small to use support services available through the Federal Reserve, the industry decades ago set up a network of corporate credit unions. "Natural-person" credit unions rely on their "corporates" to invest excess capital, as a source of liquidity and to provide check clearing and other payment services. The 23 corporate credit unions, in turn, have their own credit union, U.S. Central Federal.

"Unlike natural-person credit unions that swim in a pretty calm sea, the corporates swim in a rougher sea, which now has turned out to be shark-infested," said Becker. "They got wrapped up like everybody else in the current crisis" by investing in mortgage backed securities that turned bad.

Return on assets, ROA, is the yardstick credit unions use to measure annual performance. A one percent return is a good year and relatively few credit unions will reach it in 2009 just given the deepening recession.

The U.S. Central bailout, as structured, "makes tough times tougher," said Dawson. It would force credit unions to lower their ROA a total of 62 basis points. The portion payable by fall would wipe out any ROA in '09 for some credit unions and cut profits for many others at least by half.

"It means you can't do the things you wanted to do like invest in more branches, give raises to your staff. You can't paint the building. There are just so many things you can't do," said Pat Keith, spokesman for the Credit Union National Association in Washington D.C.

Fryzel said he and other NCUA board members have heard the complaints, met with credit union associations as well as with Pollock and Dawson, and are working together on alternatives to ease the negative effect of the bailout. Some proposed fixes require legislation including allowing a capital infusion from the Federal Reserve's Central Liquidity Facility. Another option is to ask the Treasury secretary to allow corporate credit unions to use the Troubled Asset Relief Program, the fund behind the banks' bailout.

Many credit unions were surprised by the assessment.

"When they hear why the board had to take the action," Fryzel said, "they are more rational and say, 'OK, we understand what had to be done and we're looking forward to the board mitigating our losses and cutting the cost to us.'"

"This is not a done deal by any means," said David G. Elliott, chief executive of the Fort Bragg (N.C.) Federal Credit Union, where the bailout would cut return on assets by a total of \$500,000.

"The military is sort of recession proof with our members because they're going to have jobs. That's the good side of being a military-oriented credit union as opposed to [one serving] General Motors right now," he said.

To comment, e-mail milupdate@aol.com, write to Military Update, P.O. Box 231111, Centreville, VA, 20120-1111 or visit: militaryupdate.com

WEDNESDAY'S MARKET SUMMARY

INDEXES

| INDEXES | | | | | | | | |
|-----------|----------|--------------------------|----------|---------|-------|-----------|-------------|--|
| 52-week | | | | | | | | |
| High | Low | Name | Last | Net Chg | % Chg | YTD % Chg | 52-wk % Chg | |
| 13,136.69 | 7,449.38 | Dow Jones Industrials | 7,939.53 | +50.65 | +6.4 | -9.54 | -36.75 | |
| 5,536.57 | 2,865.58 | Dow Jones Transportation | 3,006.93 | -35.31 | -1.16 | -14.99 | -37.02 | |
| 530.57 | 294.30 | Dow Jones Utilities | 369.43 | -6.1 | -1.6 | -3.6 | -26.71 | |
| 9,687.24 | 4,607.47 | NYSE Composite | 5,252.68 | +37.97 | +7.3 | -8.76 | -42.11 | |
| 2,433.31 | 1,130.47 | Amex Index | 1,403.19 | +4.8 | +0.3 | -4.1 | -38.30 | |
| 2,551.47 | 1,295.48 | Nasdaq Composite | 1,530.50 | +5.77 | +3.8 | -2.95 | -35.53 | |
| 1,440.24 | 741.02 | S&P 500 | 833.74 | +6.58 | +8.0 | -7.70 | -39.02 | |
| 897.37 | 406.45 | S&P MidCap | 506.89 | +1.34 | +2.7 | -5.83 | -37.45 | |
| 764.38 | 371.30 | Russell 2000 | 447.95 | +2.18 | +4.9 | -10.31 | -37.95 | |
| 14,564.81 | 7,340.74 | DJ Wilshire 5000 | 8,440.18 | +60.89 | +7.3 | -7.12 | -39.03 | |

NYSE

| MOST ACTIVE (\$1 OR MORE) | | | | | MOST ACTIVE (\$1 OR MORE) | | | | | MOST ACTIVE (\$1 OR MORE) | | | | |
|---------------------------|----------|-------|-------|------------|---------------------------|----------|------|-----|--|---------------------------|----------|-------|------|--|
| Name | Vol (00) | Last | Chg | | Name | Vol (00) | Last | Chg | | Name | Vol (00) | Last | Chg | |
| BkofAm | 3889430 | 6.07 | +5.1 | SPDR | 3056182 | 83.60 | +4.9 | | | PwShs QQQ | 1590717 | 30.20 | +1.4 | |
| SPDR Fincl | 1808190 | 9.32 | +4.3 | PSCORP | 255108 | 2.49 | +0.9 | | | ResMed | 758231 | 48.75 | +0.5 | |
| Citigrp | 1536459 | 3.69 | +3.4 | SP Mid | 89811 | 92.12 | -0.7 | | | Microsoft | 581694 | 19.21 | +4.1 | |
| ProffRt | 1257759 | 3.22 | +2.1 | BalrGSOI | 42903 | 16.95 | -8.2 | | | Intel | 567683 | 14.08 | ... | |
| DirxFinBull | 876893 | 8.99 | +8.6 | GoldScg | 32631 | 1.58 | +22 | | | Nvidia | 488487 | 8.15 | +1.7 | |
| GenElec | 866534 | 11.94 | +3.2 | EldorGld | 31152 | 8.52 | +0.9 | | | Cisco | 442244 | 16.12 | +1.2 | |
| WellsFargo | 730464 | 17.50 | +1.15 | NtghtMg | 27440 | 3.36 | +4.7 | | | DynTrshps | 349482 | 5.29 | +0.9 | |
| ProffRt | 721407 | 22.37 | +3.3 | 20202 | 20202 | 1.32 | +0.1 | | | Amazon | 281899 | 17.39 | +1.9 | |
| ISHMkt S | 648081 | 24.01 | +7.0 | TransIndra | 17641 | 7.94 | -0.1 | | | FifthThird | 281860 | 2.25 | +0.6 | |
| JPMorgCh | 637866 | 26.09 | +1.47 | CFCDa | 17035 | 11.66 | +2.6 | | | Del Inc | 279179 | 9.02 | +1.4 | |

AMEX

| Most Active (\$1 OR MORE) | | | | | Most Active (\$1 OR MORE) | | | | |
|---------------------------|----------|-------|------|--|---------------------------|----------|-------|-------|--|
| Name | Vol (00) | Last | Chg | | Name | Vol (00) | Last | Chg | |
| SPDR | 3056182 | 83.60 | +4.9 | | PwSng Vol | 1590717 | 30.20 | -0.14 | |
| PSCrudeOL | 255106 | 2.49 | -0.5 | | ReschIn | 758231 | 48.76 | -1.65 | |
| SP Mid | 89811 | 92.12 | -0.7 | | Microsoft | 816594 | 19.21 | -4.1 | |
| BarcSOIL | 49203 | 16.95 | -8.2 | | Intel | 567683 | 14.08 | ... | |
| GoldStr g | 32631 | 1.58 | +2.2 | | Nvidia | 484887 | 8.15 | -1.17 | |
| EkorGld g | 31152 | 8.52 | +4.9 | | Cisco | 442444 | 16.17 | +1.12 | |
| NhgmGld g | 27140 | 1.36 | +0.7 | | YpShips | 344928 | 5.29 | -4.9 | |
| NovadGld g | 20202 | 3.52 | +1.7 | | Starbuck | 286666 | 1.85 | -0.06 | |
| TransIndia | 17961 | 1.94 | -0.1 | | FifthThird | 218180 | 9.25 | -0.6 | |
| CFDca g | 17035 | 11.66 | +2.6 | | Dell Inc | 279719 | 2.02 | -1.04 | |

NASDAQ

| Most Active (\$1 OR MORE) | | | |
|---------------------------|----------|-------|-------|
| Name | Vol (00) | Last | Chg |
| PwShs QQQ | 1590717 | 30.20 | -1.4 |
| RschMotn | 758231 | 48.76 | -8.28 |
| Microsoft | 581694 | 19.21 | +4.1 |
| Intel | 567683 | 14.08 | .. |
| Nvidia | 488487 | 8.15 | -1.17 |
| Cisco | 442244 | 16.17 | +1.2 |
| DryShips | 349482 | 5.29 | -4.9 |
| Oracle | 284666 | 17.80 | +2.2 |
| FifthThird | 281860 | 2.25 | +0.6 |
| Dell Inc | 279719 | 9.02 | -1.4 |

EXCHANGE RATES

Military rates

| | |
|----------------------------|----------|
| Japanese yen (Feb. 13) | 89.00 |
| South Korean won (Feb. 13) | 1,351.00 |
| Euro costs (Feb. 13) | 1.3154 |
| Dollar buys (Feb. 13) | 0.7602 |
| British pound (Feb. 13) | 1.45 |

Commercial rates

| | |
|----------------------|---------------|
| Bahrain (Dinar) | 0.3770 |
| British pound | 1.4208 |
| Canada (Dollar) | 1.2478 |
| China (Yuan) | 6.8377 |
| Denmark (Krone) | 5.8548 |
| Egypt (Pound) | 5.5647 |
| Euro | 1.2737/0.7851 |
| Hong Kong (Dollar) | 7.7518 |
| Hungary (Forint) | 235.18 |
| Israel (Shekel) | 4.0752 |
| Japan (Yen) | 90.32 |
| Kuwait (Dinar) | 0.2913 |
| Norway (Krone) | 6.9271 |
| Philippines (Peso) | 46.98 |
| Poland (Zloty) | 3.65 |
| Saudi Arabia (Riyal) | 3.7511 |
| Singapore (Dollar) | 1.5136 |
| South Korea (Won) | 1,388.30 |
| Switzerland (Franc) | 1.1702 |
| Thailand (Baht) | 35.16 |
| Turkey (New Lira) | 1.6615 |

(Military exchange rates are those available to customers at military banking facilities in the country of issuance for Japan, South Korea, Germany, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom. For nonlocal currency exchange rates (i.e., purchasing British pounds in Germany), check with your local military banking facility. Commercial rates are interbank rates provided for reference when buying currency. All figures are foreign currencies to one dollar, except for the British pound, which is represented in dollars-to-pound, and the euro, which is dollars-to-euro.)

PRECIOUS METALS

| | |
|---------------------|----------|
| New York Merc close | \$943.80 |
| Gold | \$943.80 |
| Silver | \$13.515 |

INTEREST RATES

| | |
|---------------------------|-----------|
| Prime rate | 3.25 |
| Discount rate | 0.50 |
| Federal funds market rate | 0.00-0.25 |
| 3-month bill | 0.29 |
| 30-year bond | 3.45 |

Sources: Bank of America, The Associated Press

KEY DEFENSE STOCKS

| Name | Div | PE | Last | Chg | YTD %Chg |
|----------------------|------|----|-------|-------|----------|
| Alliant Technosystem | .. | 11 | 80.47 | -4.8 | -6.2 |
| Boeing | 1.68 | 11 | 40.33 | +1.2 | -5.5 |
| Computer Sciences | .. | 7 | 40.29 | +1.47 | +14.7 |
| General Dynamics | 1.40 | 9 | 53.89 | -5.5 | -6.4 |
| General Electric | 1.24 | 7 | 11.94 | +3.2 | -26.3 |
| Halliburton | .. | 11 | 18.38 | +0.5 | +1.1 |
| Harris Corp. | .. | 80 | 19.42 | -3.5 | +12.0 |
| Allied Signal | 1.21 | 9 | 32.19 | +2.2 | -1.9 |
| L-3 Communications | 1.40 | 11 | 77.06 | -2.5 | +4.4 |
| Lockheed Martin | 2.28 | 10 | 77.49 | -5.0 | -7.8 |
| Northrop | 1.60 | .. | 45.06 | +5.2 | .. |
| Raytheon | 1.12 | 12 | 46.98 | +1.4 | -8.0 |
| Rockwell Intl. | 1.16 | 7 | 24.37 | +1.7 | -24.4 |
| Texas Instruments | .. | 44 | 16.23 | +2.9 | +4.6 |
| Textron Inc. | .. | 92 | 4.76 | +5.1 | -51.3 |
| United Technologies | 1.54 | 10 | 47.62 | +5.6 | -11.2 |

KEY MUTUAL FUNDS

| Name | NAV | Chg. | YTD %Ret. |
|-----------------------------|-------|------|-----------|
| Fidelity Invest: GrCo | 48.26 | +1.0 | -1.4 |
| Fidelity Spartan: EqlDInv | 29.55 | +2.5 | -7.4 |
| Fidelity Invest: USBI | 10.78 | +0.3 | +4.4 |
| Fidelity Invest: GrInc | 11.92 | +1.4 | -9.5 |
| Fidelity Invest: Orvsea | 22.47 | +2.5 | -10.4 |
| Fidelity Invest: Almgro | 10.72 | +0.5 | -1.1 |
| Amer Century Inv: Ultra | 13.99 | +0.6 | -3.2 |
| Putnam Funds A: GrInA p | 8.47 | +1.0 | -9.8 |
| AIM Investments A: ChartA p | 11.07 | +1.3 | -4.7 |
| AIM Investments A: Const p | 16.20 | +0.7 | -3.8 |
| Frank Temp Frnk A: SMCpGrA | 20.07 | +0.4 | -1.1 |
| DWS Invest S: GrIncS | 10.63 | +1.1 | -3.1 |
| Fidelity Advisor T: EqlnT | 14.98 | +1.9 | -11.7 |
| Fidelity Advisor T: GrOppT | 18.84 | +0.7 | -1.1 |
| DWS Invest S: Intl Fds | 31.18 | +1.8 | -10.0 |
| Putnam Funds A: GblEqty p | 5.85 | +0.3 | -8.2 |
| Lord Abbett A: DevGTA p | 10.54 | +0.3 | -7.7 |
| Fidelity Advisor T: OrvseaT | 11.92 | +1.1 | -11.2 |
| DWS Invest S: CorPInc | 9.69 | +0.2 | -1.1 |

Gas Prices

Europe

| Country | Unleaded | Super unleaded | Super plus | Diesel |
|-----------------|------------|----------------|-------------|------------|
| Germany | \$2.135 | \$2.253 | \$2.370 | \$2.428 |
| Change in price | +3.4 cents | +3.7 cents | +3.5 cents | -2.7 cents |
| Netherlands | .. | \$2.614 | \$2.871 | \$2.754 |
| Change in price | .. | +16.6 cents | +17.1 cents | +8.6 cents |
| U.K. | .. | \$2.209 | \$2.326 | \$2.384 |
| Change in price | .. | +3.7 cents | +3.5 cents | -2.7 cents |
| Azores | .. | .. | \$2.320 | .. |
| Change in price | .. | .. | +3.5 cents | .. |
| Turkey | .. | .. | \$2.239 | \$2.297* |
| Change in price | .. | .. | +3.5 cents | -2.7 cents |
| Italy | \$2.870 | .. | .. | \$3.440 |
| Change in price | No change | .. | .. | No change |

Pacific

| Country | Unleaded | Super unleaded | Super plus | Diesel |
|-----------------|------------|----------------|------------|------------|
| Japan/Okinawa | .. | \$1.857 | .. | \$2.032 |
| Change in price | .. | +3.7 cents | .. | -2.7 cents |
| South Korea | \$2.018 | .. | \$2.253 | \$2.311 |
| Change in price | +3.4 cents | .. | +3.5 cents | -2.7 cents |
| Guam | \$2.109 ** | \$2.219 | \$2.339 | .. |
| Change in price | +4.0 cents | +3.0 cents | +3.0 cents | .. |

For the week of Feb. 14 - 20

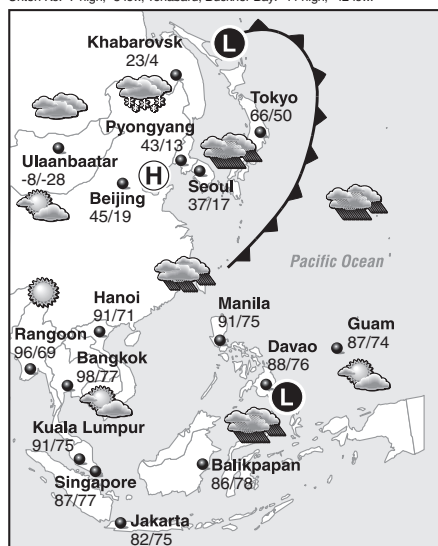
* Diesel EFD

** Midgrade

TIDE TABLES

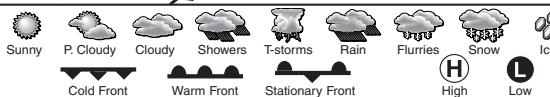
| Location | Saturday | | | |
|----------------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|
| | High | Low | High | Low |
| Japan | | | | |
| Yokosuka | 7:20 a.m. | 1:20 a.m. | 7:55 p.m. | 1:48 p.m. |
| Sasebo | 11:08 a.m. | 5:11 a.m. | 11:44 p.m. | 5:33 p.m. |
| Naha | 9:58 a.m. | 3:51 a.m. | 10:31 p.m. | 4:22 p.m. |
| Hachinohe | 5:45 a.m. | 12:17 p.m. | 6:21 p.m. | 11:58 p.m. |
| Korea | | | | |
| Cheju Island/Sogwipo | 1:51 a.m. | 8:48 a.m. | 1:58 p.m. | 9:12 p.m. |
| Kunsan | 6:39 a.m. | 1:01 a.m. | 6:44 p.m. | 1:17 p.m. |
| Guam | | | | |
| Apra Harbor | 10:43 a.m. | 4:40 a.m. | 11:35 p.m. | 5:32 p.m. |
| Location | Sunday | | | |
| | High | Low | High | Low |
| Japan | | | | |
| Yokosuka | 7:40 a.m. | 1:43 a.m. | 8:42 p.m. | 2:26 p.m. |
| Sasebo | 11:31 a.m. | 5:40 a.m. | none | 6:08 p.m. |
| Naha | 10:26 a.m. | 4:19 a.m. | 11:17 p.m. | 5:04 p.m. |
| Hachinohe | 6:07 a.m. | 1:00 p.m. | 7:10 p.m. | none |
| Korea | | | | |
| Cheju Island/Sogwipo | 2:20 a.m. | 9:15 a.m. | 2:23 p.m. | 9:21 p.m. |
| Kunsan | 7:11 a.m. | 1:32 a.m. | 7:12 p.m. | 1:52 p.m. |
| Guam | | | | |
| Apra Harbor | 11:10 a.m. | 5:17 a.m. | none | 6:22 p.m. |

For tides at other sites apply minutes to Naha tides:
 Sukku, Ora Wan: -39, Sesoko Bay: +11 high and low tide;
 Uten Koi: -7 high, -8 low, Yonabaru, Buckner Bay: -44 high, -42 low.



Shown is Saturday's weather. Temperatures are Saturday's highs and Saturday night's lows. Pressure systems and fronts are for noon Saturday, Tokyo time.

AccuWeather.com®



CANADA

| City | Hi | Lo | W |
|-------------|----|-----|-------|
| Calgary | 14 | -1 | Cldy |
| Edmonton | 8 | -10 | Cldy |
| Halifax | 27 | 14 | Cldy |
| Iqaluit | -7 | -20 | Cldy |
| Montreal | 27 | 9 | PCldy |
| Ottawa | 25 | 9 | PCldy |
| Quebec | 23 | 3 | PCldy |
| Regina | 3 | -13 | Cldy |
| Toronto | 31 | 16 | Cldy |
| Vancouver | 43 | 32 | PCldy |
| Whitehorse | 18 | 1 | Sun |
| Windsor | 34 | 25 | Cldy |
| Winnipeg | 17 | -1 | Cldy |
| Yellowknife | 5 | -12 | Cldy |

EUROPE

| City | Hi | Lo | W |
|-----------|----|----|-------|
| Amsterdam | 39 | 34 | Rain |
| Baghdad | 49 | 39 | Rain |
| Belgrade | 30 | 26 | Cldy |
| Berlin | 30 | 23 | PCldy |
| Brussels | 41 | 30 | PCldy |
| Dublin | 46 | 41 | Shwr |
| Glasgow | 49 | 43 | Rain |
| Lisbon | 61 | 46 | PCldy |
| London | 43 | 39 | PCldy |
| Madrid | 59 | 34 | Sun |
| Moscow | 34 | 28 | Snow |
| Paris | 41 | 34 | PCldy |
| Rome | 45 | 30 | Sun |
| Warsaw | 37 | 30 | Snow |

MIDDLE EAST

| City | Hi | Lo | W |
|----------------|----|----|-------|
| Ashgabat | 62 | 40 | Sun |
| Baghdad | 74 | 55 | PCldy |
| Cairo | 77 | 56 | Sun |
| Dhahran | 78 | 58 | Sun |
| Islamabad | 71 | 42 | Sun |
| Inchirlik | 68 | 48 | Sun |
| Kabul | 45 | 19 | PCldy |
| Kandahar | 65 | 37 | Sun |
| Karachi | 85 | 61 | Sun |
| Kuwait | 75 | 63 | PCldy |
| Mazar-e-Sharif | 56 | 34 | PCldy |
| Tehran | 59 | 48 | PCldy |
| Tripoli | 77 | 55 | Sun |
| Zahedan | 64 | 35 | Sun |

AFRICA

| City | Hi | Lo | W |
|------------|-----|----|-------|
| Abidjan | 87 | 75 | Rain |
| Algiers | 55 | 36 | Sun |
| Cape Town | 77 | 61 | Sun |
| Casablanca | 73 | 55 | Cldy |
| Durban | 80 | 71 | Tstm |
| Freetown | 80 | 71 | Sun |
| Kano | 102 | 58 | Sun |
| Khartoum | 107 | 72 | Sun |
| Kisangani | 88 | 66 | Tstm |
| Luanda | 90 | 78 | PCldy |
| Malakal | 106 | 70 | Sun |
| Mogadishu | 89 | 75 | Sun |
| Tabora | 84 | 61 | Sun |
| Timbuktu | 88 | 54 | Sun |

LATIN AMERICA

| City | Hi | Lo | W |
|----------------|----|----|-------|
| Acapulco | 88 | 71 | Sun |
| Bogota | 66 | 47 | Rain |
| Buenos Aires | 97 | 77 | PCldy |
| Cancun | 86 | 66 | Sun |
| Havana | 85 | 62 | Cldy |
| Kingston | 84 | 75 | Shwr |
| Lima | 85 | 67 | Cldy |
| Mexico City | 80 | 43 | Sun |
| Nassau | 82 | 70 | Sun |
| Puerto Plata | 82 | 76 | PCldy |
| Rio de Janeiro | 80 | 71 | Cldy |
| Santiago | 91 | 55 | Sun |
| Santo Domingo | 84 | 68 | Sun |
| San Jose | 81 | 64 | Shwr |

ASIA / PACIFIC

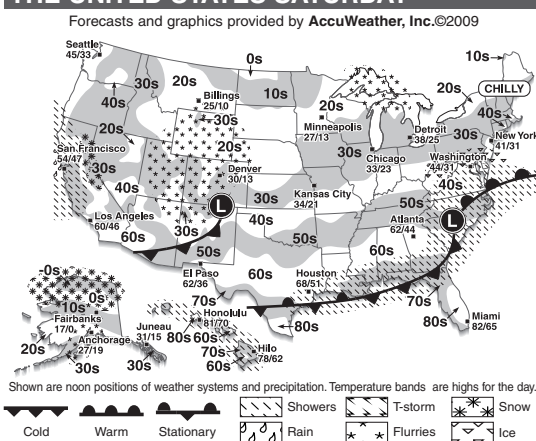
| City | Hi | Lo | W |
|------------|----|----|-------|
| Auckland | 68 | 55 | Cldy |
| Colombo | 89 | 74 | Sun |
| Darwin | 87 | 76 | Tstm |
| Dhaka | 85 | 72 | Sun |
| Hong Kong | 77 | 70 | Cldy |
| Kathmandu | 84 | 42 | Sun |
| Melbourne | 77 | 61 | Sun |
| Mumbai | 86 | 72 | Sun |
| New Delhi | 78 | 51 | PCldy |
| Phnom Penh | 92 | 74 | Cldy |
| Shanghai | 59 | 47 | Rain |
| Sydney | 69 | 64 | Rain |
| Taipei | 84 | 72 | PCldy |
| Xining | 54 | 20 | PCldy |

SATURDAY'S STATESIDE OUTLOOK

| City | Hi | Lo | W |
|----------------|----|----|-------|
| Abilene, TX | 61 | 36 | PCldy |
| Akron, OH | 38 | 22 | Snow |
| Albany, NY | 35 | 17 | PCldy |
| Albuquerque | 48 | 25 | Cldy |
| Allentown, PA | 36 | 26 | Snow |
| Amarillo | 51 | 22 | Sun |
| Anchorage | 27 | 19 | PCldy |
| Asheville | 50 | 36 | Rain |
| Atlanta | 62 | 44 | Rain |
| Atlantic City | 42 | 23 | PCldy |
| Austin | 60 | 48 | PCldy |
| Baltimore | 42 | 30 | PCldy |
| Baton Rouge | 72 | 53 | PCldy |
| Billings | 25 | 10 | Cldy |
| Birmingham | 66 | 44 | PCldy |
| Bismarck | 15 | -1 | PCldy |
| Boise | 39 | 27 | Cldy |
| Bridgeport | 41 | 27 | PCldy |
| Burlington | 82 | 66 | PCldy |
| Buffalo | 30 | 16 | Cldy |
| Burlington | 28 | 12 | Sun |
| Caribou, ME | 21 | 15 | Cldy |
| Casper | 29 | 8 | Snow |
| Charleston, SC | 65 | 51 | Tstm |
| Charleston, WV | 45 | 31 | Rain |
| Charlotte, NC | 50 | 38 | Rain |
| Chattanooga | 60 | 40 | PCldy |
| Cheyenne | 25 | 9 | Snow |
| Chicago | 33 | 23 | Snow |
| Cincinnati | 45 | 26 | Cldy |
| Cleveland | 34 | 25 | Snow |

| City | Hi | Lo | W |
|----------------|----|----|-------|
| Colorado Spgs. | 29 | 13 | Cldy |
| Columbia, SC | 58 | 44 | Rain |
| Columbus, GA | 56 | 47 | Rain |
| Columbus, OH | 40 | 25 | Snow |
| Concord, NH | 36 | 15 | PCldy |
| Corpus Christi | 76 | 61 | Cldy |
| Dallas | 59 | 41 | Sun |
| Dayton | 38 | 25 | Snow |
| Daytona Beach | 81 | 60 | PCldy |
| Denver | 30 | 13 | Cldy |
| Des Moines | 35 | 16 | Cldy |
| Detroit | 38 | 25 | Snow |
| Duluth | 24 | 6 | Cldy |
| El Paso | 62 | 36 | PCldy |
| Elkins | 45 | 26 | Snow |
| Enid | 32 | 19 | Snow |
| Eugene | 44 | 30 | PCldy |
| Evansville | 48 | 30 | Cldy |
| Fairbanks | 17 | 0 | Cldy |
| Fargo | 17 | 2 | PCldy |
| Flagstaff | 31 | 12 | Snow |
| Flint | 35 | 20 | Cldy |
| Fort Smith | 56 | 36 | Sun |
| Fort Wayne | 39 | 26 | Snow |
| Fresno | 54 | 44 | Cldy |
| Goodland | 27 | 11 | Cldy |
| Grand Junction | 39 | 20 | Snow |
| Grand Rapids | 34 | 24 | Cldy |
| Great Falls | 26 | 5 | Cldy |
| Green Bay | 33 | 17 | Cldy |
| Greensboro, NC | 43 | 35 | Rain |
| Harrisburg | 41 | 29 | Snow |

THE UNITED STATES SATURDAY



Shown are noon positions of weather systems and precipitation. Temperature bands are highs for the day.

For complete and up-to-the-minute worldwide weather information, go to www.strips.com and check out the AccuWeather forecast.



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Former firefighter jailed for arson

PA DANVILLE — A former volunteer firefighter who went on an arson spree in north-eastern Pennsylvania is heading to prison for 12 to 24 years.

One of the fires that 52-year-old Chester Cyphers admitted he set in 2007 left a fellow volunteer firefighter paralyzed.

Cyphers was sentenced in Montour County Court. He pleaded guilty in October to 11 arson counts and one count of aggravated assault for the injury to Wayne Hawley.

The judge also ordered Cyphers to pay \$20,000 in restitution to Hawley, who now uses a wheelchair.

House speaker stepping down during hiring probe

FL TALLAHASSEE — The speaker of Florida's House of Representatives said he is stepping down temporarily to deal with a probe into his hiring by a state college for which he obtained millions of dollars in funding.

Speaker Ray Sansom said fellow Republican Larry Cretul of Ocala will replace him for now. Sansom will continue representing the Florida Panhandle resort city of Destin as a regular House member.

Sansom faces grand jury and state ethics commission investigations after taking a \$110,000-a-year job as the chief fundraiser for Northwest Florida State College on Nov. 18, the same day he became speaker. Critics charge Sansom was given the job as payback for channeling more than \$25 million in state funds to the school — 25 times the amount state education officials had originally allocated.

State asked to examine its Amber Alert policy

TX DALLAS — Advocates for missing children want Texas' Department of Public Safety to reconsider its policy of issuing Amber Alerts after the agency refused to send one out for a missing 11-year-old girl believed to have run off with a convicted felon.

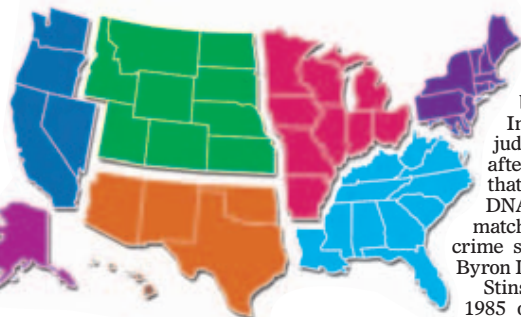
Police in Tyler, about 100 miles east of Dallas, requested the alert after the girl's mother reported her missing. She was last seen Jan. 24. The girl's friends said she may be with 23-year-old Enrique Vasquez, whom they described as her boyfriend.

The girl's parents told police that Vasquez, who was convicted of burglary in 2006, played soccer with her father, but they were unaware of any relationship between the two and he did not have permission to take their child.

Detective finds missing body while out jogging

PA ERIE — A detective who was investigating a western Pennsylvania man's disappearance happened upon the missing man's body during an afternoon jog through a field.

Police in Millcreek Township, just outside Erie, say 25-year-old Aaron Nolan had been missing since Jan. 16.



AMERICAN ROUNDUP

The township detective discovered the body while jogging in the field near the missing man's apartment complex. The body had been covered in knee-deep snow that was melting as temperatures rose recently.

The Erie County Coroner says it appears Nolan died of hypothermia or related causes, but more tests are needed.

Police asked to probe drugs at college party

VT CASTLETON — State police are being asked to investigate possible drug sales at an off-campus party that officials say sent two Castleton State College students to the hospital.

Bob Godlewski, director of public safety at the college, said at least two students had ingested an unknown drug that they allegedly bought from three Massachusetts men who were at the party.

The students were taken by ambulance to the Rutland hospital and have since recovered.

Man freed after serving 23 years for murder

WI MILWAUKEE — A man sentenced to life in prison for killing a woman in 1984 had his conviction overturned and was released after spending 23 years behind bars.

Robert Lee Stinson, 44, walked out of the New Lisbon Correctional

Institution in street clothes and hugged his sister and members of the Wisconsin Innocence Project. A judge vacated the sentence after the Project argued that bite-mark analysis and DNA evidence that didn't match evidence from the crime scene, defense attorney Byron Lichstein said.

Stinson was convicted in 1985 of first-degree murder in the death of a 63-year-old Milwaukee woman. Evidence suggested she had been raped, and her body also had eight different bite marks, Lichstein said.

Former race foes have healing meeting

DC WASHINGTON — Elwin Wilson was an unabashed racist, the sort who once hung a black doll from a noose outside his home. John Lewis was a young civil rights leader bent on changing laws, if not hearts and minds, even if it cost him his life.

They faced each other at a South Carolina bus station during a protest in 1961. Wilson joined a white gang that jeered Lewis, attacked him and left him bloodied on the ground.

Forty-eight years later, the men met again — this time so Wilson could apologize to Lewis and express regret for his hatred. Lewis, now a congressman from Atlanta, greeted his former tormentor at his Capitol Hill office.

"I just told him that I was sorry," Wilson, 72, said in a telephone interview as he traveled home to Rock Hill, S.C.

Lewis said Wilson is the first person involved in the dozens of attacks against him during the civil rights era to step forward and apologize. When they met, Lewis offered forgiveness without hesitation.

L.A. police internal probe posted online

CA LOS ANGELES — Authorities in Los Angeles say a confidential report on police misconduct that included the names of hundreds of officers was mistakenly posted on the Internet.

The Police Commission report was e-mailed to the news media. It also was posted on a city Web site but removed less than an hour later.

The report included the names of about 250 officers that the internal affairs unit had investigated over allegations of racial profiling.

Police Commission Executive Director Richard Tefank called it an "unfortunate mistake."

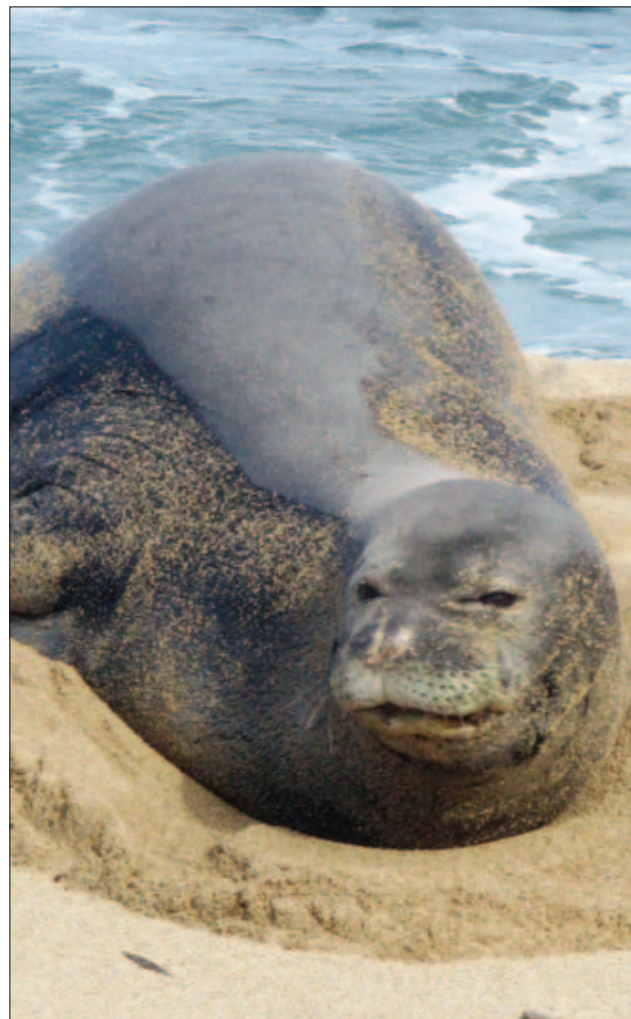
Strangers return cash dropped by motorcyclist

NE OMAHA — An Omaha man is smiling with relief because a posse of strangers rounded up and returned more than \$2,000 that spilled from his dropped wallet.

Anthony Burres says he was riding his motorcycle when his wallet loaded with hundred-dollar bills fell from his pocket onto the street.

Burres says a driver followed him for several blocks, flagged him down, and told him of his loss.

When he returned to the scene, he couldn't believe his eyes. Several other drivers had stopped, picked up the money, and were waiting for him so they could return it.



Getting sun A Hawaiian monk seal basks in the late afternoon sun on the beach in Hau'ula, Hawaii, on the north shore of Oahu. The Hawaiian monk seal was officially designated as an endangered species in 1976 and is now protected by the Endangered Species Act and the Marine Mammal Protection Act.



On the move A home designed by famed Philadelphia-based architect Robert Venturi sits on blocks near a bayside marina in Barnegat Light, N.J. The new property owner wanted to raze the 2,000-square-foot modernist 1967 structure on New Jersey's Long Beach Island, but Venturi and his son struck a deal to have the house moved and their plan is to send it by barge to New York's Long Island.



Solar power

A solar panel is attached to an aluminum light pole across the street from the headquarters of Public Service Electric & Gas Co., left, in Newark, N.J. New Jersey's largest utility said it will install 200,000 solar panels throughout its service area in an ambitious \$773 million program.



Collectors' delight Benjamin Zucker, an author and precious stones specialist, and his grandson Abram Goren, 8, visit The Valmadonna Library Trust collection on display at Sotheby's in New York. According to Sotheby's, the Valmadonna Trust is the finest private collection of Hebrew books and manuscripts in the world. Amassed over the past century, the group of 11,000 works is significant as a primary source on both world and literary history and Jewish life.



Look out below Miss U.S.A. Crystle Stewart experiences her first free fall riding with tandem instructor Sgt. 1st Class Mike Elliott and other members of the U.S. Army Parachute Team "Golden Knights" at Yuma Proving Grounds, Ariz. Also jumping are, Sgt. 1st Class Jeff Schafer, left, Staff Sgt. Joe Jones and Sgt. 1st Class Dallas Berentis.



Zoo break Lara Alami of Troy, Mich., and her children, Noah, 3, and Gabriel, 1, visit the Detroit Zoo in Royal Oak, Mich., to take advantage of the warmer weather.

Judge won't let Prop 8 donor identities be secret

CA SACRAMENTO — A federal judge denied a request to keep secret the names of donors to California's anti-gay marriage initiative, saying the public had a right to know who gave money to state ballot measures. Supporters of the Proposition 8 initiative, which overturned a state Supreme Court ruling that allowed gay marriage, had sought a preliminary injunction to remove the identities of those who contributed to their campaign from the secretary of state's Web site. The initiative was approved by voters in November. They also had asked U.S. District Judge Morrison England Jr. to block the release of the names of donors who either gave money two weeks before the election or shortly afterward. Those names will be publicly released in postelection campaign finance reports. But the judge sided with the state, saying that California's campaign disclosure laws were intended to protect the public and were especially important during expensive initiative campaigns.

Lost skier, snowboarder rescued in 2 incidents

VT KILLINGTON — A lost skier and a snowboarder were rescued in separate incidents after going off marked trails at Killington ski area. Vermont State Police say a 21-year-old Adam Brodeur, of Durham, N.H., was reported missing after he didn't return to his skiing party. Police and the Killington Ski Patrol found him uninjured. The next day, 19-year-old Mykael Harrigan, of Castleton, called 911 at 5:30 p.m. to say he was lost in the woods after snowboarding off a trail. Police lost contact with Harrigan when his cell phone battery died, but rescuers found him a short time later.

State Senate extends ban on payday loan practices

VA RICHMOND — The Virginia Senate sent a message to payday lenders: Don't think you got one over on us. Irked by what they perceive as the lenders' end run around tough new restrictions passed last year, senators unanimously passed a bill to bar them from offering other types of loans. The majority of the state's nearly 800 payday lending stores received regulatory approval to offer open-end loans that can carry unlimited interest rates after the General Assembly last year passed strict regulations, which included limiting the number of loans borrowers could get annually. The restrictions took effect this month.

Woman dies after crashing snowmobile

MA NEW ASHFORD — A Connecticut mother of two went into cardiac arrest and died after crashing her snowmobile on top of Mt. Greylock in western Massachusetts. Massachusetts State Police Sgt. Tim Finn told WWLP-TV that the 39-year-old woman from Glaston-

bury was pronounced dead on arrival at Berkshire Medical Center in Pittsfield. The woman's 7-year-old daughter was riding in the same sled, but was not hurt. Her husband and 3-year-old son were riding on a separate sled.

It's not just the cash, it's a clean start they want

GA ATLANTA — It started as a family joke: Facing snowballing medical expenses for their two young disabled children, Gregg and Brittney Peters quipped they might need to sell everything they owned to stay solvent. As the bills tipped \$10,000, however, the idea was no longer funny. So the Gainesville, Ga., couple has accepted a winning \$20,000 eBay bid for all their belongings minus their house. It came with one catch. The winning bidders, Donnia and Keith Blair of Texas, want the family to have the money, but keep their stuff. Seems like the perfect happy ending, except the Peters don't want the money. They say the whole idea was to start over, not take a handout. The decision is out of their hands, the Blairs say.

Increase seen in bank robberies by women

NY MELVILLE — Authorities on Long Island say they're seeing a spike in women robbing banks. Police say that in the last four months three female bank robbers have struck banks six times. In each case they were the sole operative, bucking the usual M.O. of females working with accomplices. Suffolk police say the average has been one or two cases a year. According to FBI statistics, bank robberies nationally by women have risen slightly from year to year since 2002, accounting for about 6 percent of all bank robberies. Suffolk police say that despite the recent spike, they're not seeing a long-term increase in female bank robberies or attempts.

Contractor sentenced for construction bribe

DC WASHINGTON — A contractor who once worked for the Treasury Department was sentenced to 2½ years in prison for bribing a government official with \$55,000 to win construction contracts. Daniel Money, 44, of Shady Side, Md., was sentenced by U.S. District Judge Ricardo M. Urbina after pleading guilty to a bribery charge. He has to forfeit \$95,000 in profits he made on one contract, pay a \$7,500 fine and reimburse the Treasury Department \$2,250 for stealing about 600 gallons of diesel fuel. Money owns Daniel Construction, which provided maintenance, repair, electrical, construction and other related services for government agencies. He also worked for the Treasury Department as a planner. He admitted that he agreed to the bribe payments to win two contracts, including one for \$188,000 at the U.S. Tax Court that he was awarded. Stories and photos from wire services

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OPINION

When Gettysburg Address hit home

BY DAVID GRUBIN

I had never heard of the Gettysburg Address until sixth grade. All I knew of Abraham Lincoln was his majestic image enthroned on the Mall in Washington — until Mrs. Wright introduced us to his famous speech, not as a landmark of American democracy but as a form of punishment.

As far as I knew, Mrs. Wright had taught sixth grade forever. She was an intimidating little woman, and whenever anyone spoke out of turn, she would fix the reprobat with her eyes, raise her hand and extend her index finger toward the ceiling. Protest would only provoke the elevation of a second finger, sometimes a third or even a fourth, depending on the gravity of the crime and the energy of the denial.

Her pointed fingers signaled the number of times the offender would be obliged to copy by hand the Gettysburg Address. Before I made it to the seventh grade, I must have written more than 100 "Gettysburgs," as we used to call them, in the looping, cur-

sive style that Mrs. Wright required.

"Four score and seven years ago..." It was just 10 sentences, 272 words, many of them strange and unfathomable. I had no idea what the speech meant. Looking back, it seems almost perverse — to punish a kid with the Gettysburg Address — but when you're 12, what do you know? I acquiesced to classroom justice, and I wasn't the only one. In time, Mrs. Wright had assigned so many Gettysburgs to so many kids that a kind of black-market trade in Gettysburgs developed. You could buy one Gettysburg for a nickel, three for a dime, six for a quarter.

"... testing whether that nation, or any nation so conceived and so dedicated, can long endure..."

I remember how a friend of mine scrawled as many as he could on a single sheet of paper — across the side, top and bottom margins, anywhere there was space. It was only toward the end of the school year that I realized that I was a dupe and a grind. Though I would write the entire speech — each and every word — I discovered that my friends had been skipping words, sometimes even entire sentences: "conceived liberty dedicated equal." Mrs. Wright wasn't reading these Gettysburgs at all. Of course not.

But I diligently plugged on.

"The world will little note nor long remember what we say here, but it can never forget what they did here."

Every time I came to that sentence, I paused and remarked to myself on its irony, although I didn't call it that then. All I knew was that I had no idea "what they did here," but my teacher hadn't forgotten what had been said there, nor would I.

That the battle of Gettysburg was the bloodiest of the Civil War — some 50,000 casualties — and its ferocious turning point meant nothing to me, nor that afterward Lincoln consecrated and hallowed that ground by redefining the American democratic experiment in a speech so fine in its calibrations that it took him only three minutes.

"... that from these honored dead we



M. SPENCER GREEN/AP

Matt Cullen holds a copy of the Gettysburg Address as he and his fellow students recite the speech at Chicago's St. Clement School on Thursday.

take increased devotion to that cause for which they gave the last full measure of devotion..."

The wrong kind of schooling — and I had plenty of it — can tame the most provocative words, pacify them, render them useless. But somehow Lincoln's words transcended the punitive, mind-numbing repetition I was subjected to, just as Lincoln himself has escaped the incessant commercialization of popular culture. In spite of the relentless trivialization, he remains more than the name on the bank, the car, the logs, the new housing development.

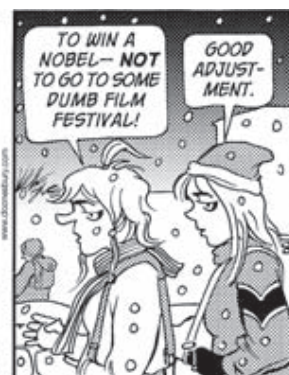
"... that this nation, under God, shall have a new birth of freedom; and that government of the people, by the people, for the people, shall not perish from the earth."

Lincoln and his Gettysburg Address rise above it all. No matter how many times it was inflicted on me, the cadences sing in my blood today. And so, in the 200th year after Lincoln's birth, when Barack Obama took as the theme of his inauguration "a new birth of freedom," I thrilled to the relevance of those words and the poetry of Abraham Lincoln.

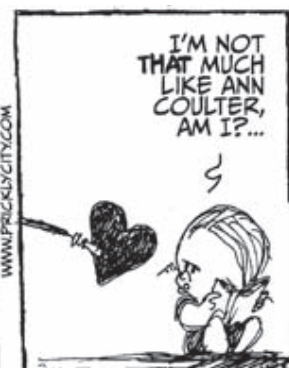
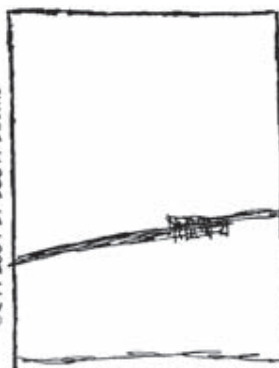
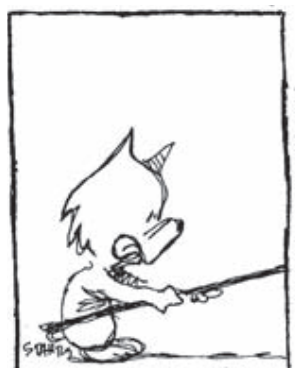
David Grubin is a documentary film producer and writer. This essay first appeared in the Writers Guild of America, East "Awards Journal," then in the Los Angeles Times.

BY GARRY TRUDEAU

Doonesbury



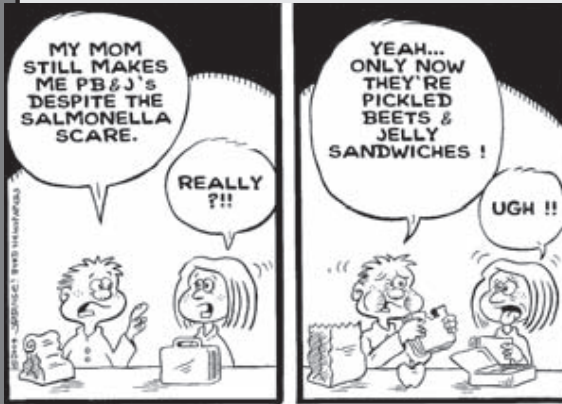
Prickly City



BY SCOTT STANTIS

Looking at the news

A weekly sampling of U.S. editorial cartoons



JOHN ROSE/Scripps Howard



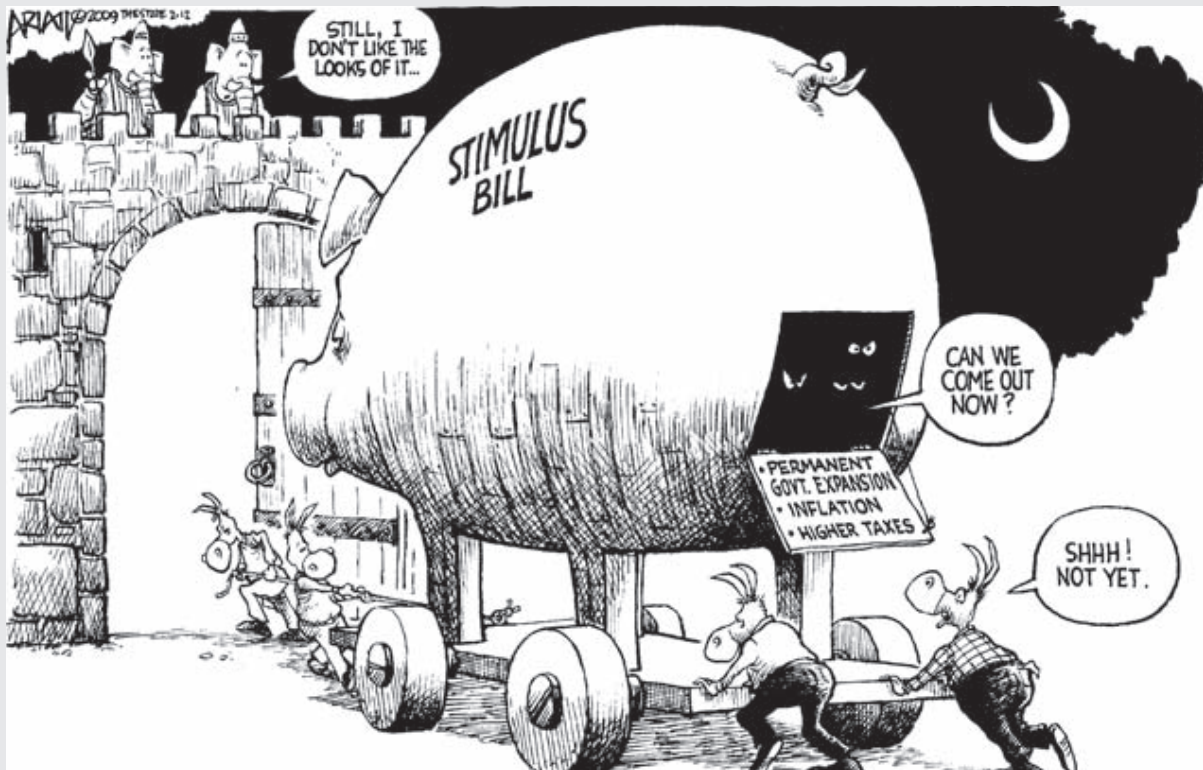
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Horoscope

The moon slides into the sultry sign of Scorpio this Valentine's Day, adding spice to this day of hearts. Of course, the classic notes, flowers and confections go over beautifully, but Mercury entering the sign of Aquarius also favors treats that are technological or intellectual. Consider offering a computer program or a volume of poetry!

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (FEBRUARY 14)

You have your heart set on one key accomplishment. In order to bring about a desired state of being you'll perform 10 meaningful tasks over the next seven weeks. Love multiplies through the spring. You perceive the deeper truth of things, which guides your decisions. Your social network grows, too. Gemini and Cancer adore you.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). Someone notices your subtle changes in mood. This quality of attention should tell you something — you are loved. Also, you have an effect on others even when you don't realize it, which is quite a responsibility.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). Everyone treats family differently from the way they respond to a stranger. Often the strangers get more patience. Today, it is those closest to you that will require your utmost care and compassion.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). Think broad and work small. It's the nice little things you do and the pleasant way you are that will make someone want your work, buy your product, be in your club and/or on your side.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). The quickest way to building your confidence is to take on a procrastinated task, especially one that has to do with tidying up your home. As soon as you get into the thick of a project, helpers arrive to bring it to the finish line.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). Connections happen quickly, if not immediately. Be aware of the small

social details. If all you do is smile and exchange a few pleasantries you may very well be entering into a new relationship.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). You get excited at the very mention of a makeover. That's you, always eager to improve. The subject may be your business, home or relationships. In all areas you make quick progress.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). What used to make your heart sing has now become too ordinary. You will enjoy your old favorites again, but only after you venture off for a while. Keep looking for inspiration. It comes from many different places.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Focusing too intently on problems just creates more of them. Take charge. Distract yourself. You're really having to work at being positive, but this is the most important work you could do.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). You are always operating at many levels at once, though you're usually not so conscious of your multi-dimensional activity as you are today. You'll get practical information through extrasensory means.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). The plan for increasing your financial flow will come together quickly. It all springs from who you are. Write down what you're good at, what you're bad at, your likes and dislikes. Get to know yourself all over again.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). You don't need to change a single physical thing about yourself in order to be mega-attractive. Your body, hair, clothes — it's all fine. All you have to do is know what you like and love about yourself and accentuate that.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). You can work when you're not inspired, but what's the fun in that? You'll be much more productive after you take a break. During your down time muses will stimulate your creativity.

Creators Syndicate

SU/DO/KU

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Difficulty: Easy

Fill in the boxes so that each row, column and 3-by-3 square includes the digits 1 through 9. For solution, tips and computer program, see www.sudoku.com

Yesterday's Solution

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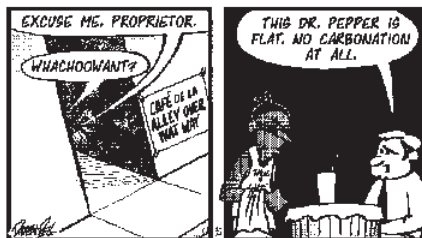
Beetle Bailey



Get Fuzzy



Candorville



Meaning of Life



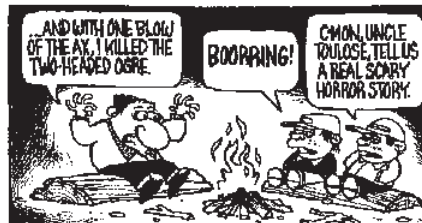
Knight Life



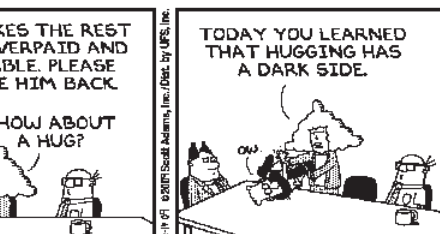
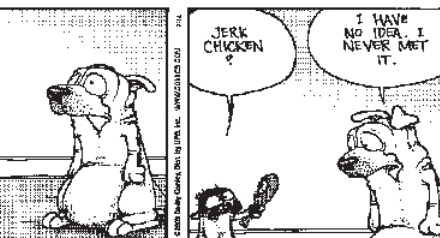
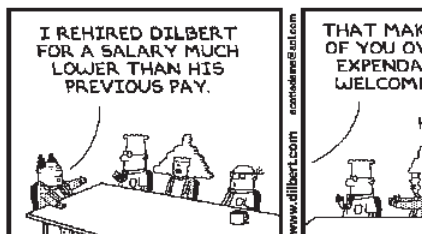
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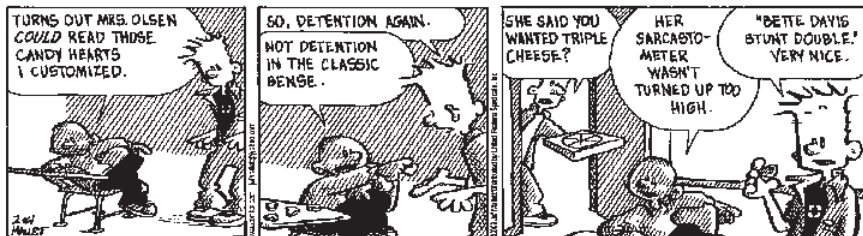
Other Coast



Dilbert



Frazz



Garfield



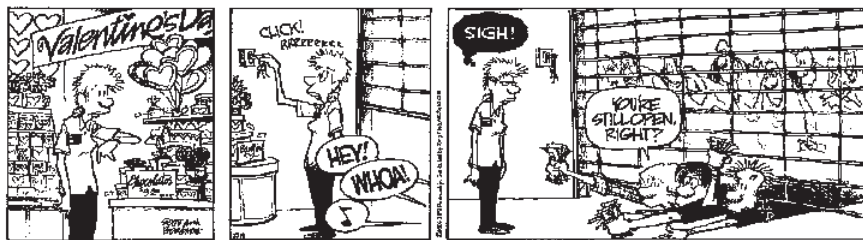
Baby Blues



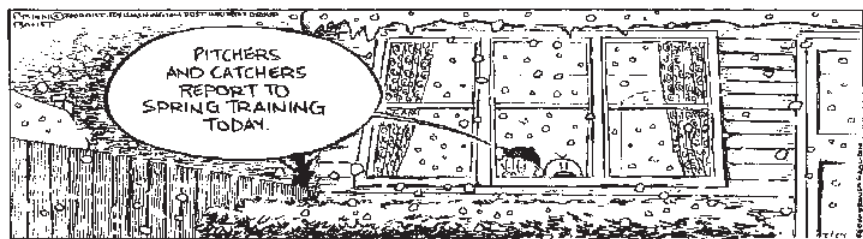
Jump Start



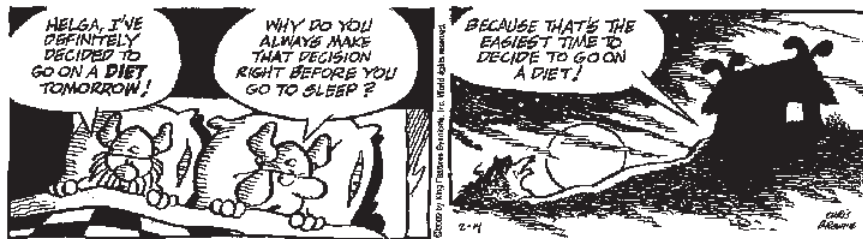
Zits



Red & Rover



Hagar



Better or Worse



Eugene Sheffer Crossword

| | | | | | | | | | | |
|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 |
| 12 | | | | 13 | | | | 14 | | |
| 15 | | | | 16 | | | | 17 | | |
| 18 | | | | 19 | | | | 20 | | |
| | | | 21 | 22 | | | 23 | 24 | | |
| 25 | 26 | 27 | | | | | 28 | | 29 | 30 |
| 32 | | | | | | | 33 | | | |
| 34 | | | | 35 | | 36 | | | | |
| | | | 37 | | | 38 | | | | |
| 39 | 40 | 41 | | 42 | 43 | | | 44 | 45 | 46 |
| 48 | | | | 49 | | | | 50 | | |
| 51 | | | | 52 | | | | 53 | | |
| 54 | | | | 55 | | | | 56 | | |

ACROSS

- Clear the decks?
- "Hey, you!"
- Trail the pack
- Singer Vikki
- Canyon comeback
- Anger
- Initial stake
- 2008 bailout acronym
- Perch
- Whatever remains
- Honest politician
- 11-Down's genre
- Pitch
- Sci-fi doctor
- Removed, as a cap
- Indicate
- Preclude
- Pursuing
- "Jeopardy!" stock-in-trade
- Internet icon
- Embarrassed
- Calif. neighbor
- Genealogy chart
- Answer to the Sphinx's riddle
- Say you will, or won't, be there
- A billion years
- Old Italian money
- Foil's kin
- Autumn mo.
- Broadcasts
- Pigs' digs
- Entanglements
- Golden Rule word

DOWN

- "Lion King" baddie
- Recede
- __ and crafts
- Longtime Packers QB
- Loud firework
- Wound cover
- Cunning
- Surpass
- Simpson or Kudrow
- Four Corners st.
- Musician Stan
- "Iron Man" director
- Raptor's roost
- Toss hard
- Banned bug spray
- __ the ramparts ...
- Justice Dept. div.
- Mel of Cooperstown
- Afternoon affair
- Mess up
- Regard highly
- Historical records
- Sawbucks
- Cheer
- Jealousy
- Speedy steed
- "Wheel of Fortune" option
- Perp. to hor.
- 100 centavos
- Despondent

Answer to Previous Puzzle

| | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| J | I | M | T | W | I | N | B | A | S |
| A | N | A | H | A | L | O | L | I | L |
| M | A | K | E | O | V | E | R | A | N |
| E | A | S | Y | A | Z | T | E | C | |
| W | A | S | T | E | B | A | R | E | |
| E | M | U | S | S | U | P | E | R | M |
| P | A | R | J | U | D | E | A | A | L |
| T | H | E | B | I | R | D | S | S | K |
| A | N | D | Y | D | O | E | T | H | |
| B | R | O | N | X | S | W | I | G | |
| L | O | K | I | M | A | K | E | L | O |
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2-14

CRYPTOQUIP

GUDXBT IWFO WXID UAXBQ
 U GIZXKE OXDDFQQIH AE
 UK XZH TUFZXM: "OMFDI
 XG QLI UKOFIKQ DUMFKIM."
 Yesterday's Cryptoquip: COULD YOU SAY
 FICTIONAL CHARACTERS SUCH AS BILBO AND
 FRDO BAGGINS ARE CREATURES OF HOBBIT?
 Today's Cryptoquip Clue: G equals F



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- Free ads run for 21 days and on a space available basis only.
- Please spell out each word. No abbreviations.
- Item prices must be listed.
- Free ads are available for private parties only. For information on commercial or in-home business ads, please call 229-3276.
- Stars and Stripes reserves the right to re-classify, rewrite or reject any ad.

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Address _____ Installation _____
Your ad _____

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Announcements

040

Individuals placing classified advertising should use discretion in concluding the sale of their property. Not all potential buyers are reputable or honest. S&S suggests that you take precautions to ensure that potential buyers are reputable and will be able to fulfill the terms of the sale. S&S is not liable for the contractual relationship between sellers and buyers of merchandise advertised in the newspaper or on the web site.

Your Hometown Newspaper
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Autos for Sale

141

Yokosuka - 1995 Silver BMW 750Li for sale!!!!!! Left hand drive/enclosed subwoofer with 12" speakers/ new touch screen stereo DVD system great upgrades! Must sell fast! \$10,000 or best offer! Please contact 08066632185/08066632191

Yokosuka - 2000 Saturn SC, 65,000 KM, JCI through September 2009. Base Inspection through September 2009. In Outstanding Operational Condition. Exterior in Outstanding Condition. Interior Very Clean. Oil & Filter Changed 1/2009. Tires Rotated 1/2009. Blue Exterior - Blue Interior, \$1,900.00 or Best Offer. Call Cindy at 080-676-45187

Yokosuka - 2003 BMW M3 Convertible, 22K miles, US model, Red/red/black, SMG transmission, Almost every option. Must sell soon. \$25K OBO. Email kilnme@yahoo.com Call 090-9104-8198

Yokosuka - 2007 Silver Jeep Grand Cherokee Laredo-less than 10,000 miles in perfect condition for sale! This SUV is left hand drive with a state of the art Navigation system and will come with a low profile roof rack, custom mats and so much more! Too much to mention here. Only asking \$19,500 OBO for this mint condition Jeep Grand Cherokee. You won't get a better price anywhere else! Call Ronnie at 090-934-71879 or email surferjapan@gmail.com for further details.

Autos for Sale

141

Yokosuka, Japan - 2004 Mercedes-Benz SLK 350 Mid-night Blue Hard top convertible \$29,000.28,000 KM Navigation/DVD, Leather Interior, Air-scarf, Heated seats. No problems and looks brand new. Please feel free to email me at whitman@cnv73.navy.mil or call at 08065470307

Yokota - 1989 Toyota Surf. 4X4. Automatic, power windows&locks, A/C. JCI till Sep 2009. Runs great/good solid truck, \$1500.00 OBO. Call Rick @ 225-5855 or 080-378-3257.

Yokota - 1992 Honda Civic. Runs well. Plenty of room. Automatic transmission. Comes with new antenna and new radio. Selling to pay off debt. JCI till 10/10. \$1200.00. Email: John.nicola@hotmail.com

Yokota - 1992 Nissan Gloria. JCI: Good 'til Dec 2010. \$2000 OBO. Price is very negotiable, just make me an Offer! Call Craig at (623)-734-9619 or call 080384577823 or Jesse at (305) -537-5240, Cell 08035184639

Yokota - 1997 Mazda MPV \$2500 JCI Oct 2010. Exterior: white & tan, mileage: 76,200 km. Interior: gray, extras: auto, entry, auto start, new sound system, good condition tires, tinted windows. Alternate e-mail: chris7452@aol.com

Yokota - 1999 Mitsubishi Chariot Grandis V6 Royal. No Scratches & Dents. Non Smoker. 7 Passenger Van, Strong V6, 30,000 GDI Engine JCI 24 Jan 2011. \$4,500.00. Contact 1-801-963-0802

Announcements

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Autos for Sale

141

Yokota - '95 Honda Civic PCSing must sell!! 35K km, CD player. Great for driving around. Very clean! JCI Aug 09. \$1000.00 obo. Contact - 5093430778

Yokota - 96 Nissan Cefiro JCI Exp Feb 2011. \$1,800. Please e-mail interested parties: chini@hotmail.com ann.stanford@yokota.af.mil

Yokota - Domani for sale! It's a 4 door, black, runs well, never had a problem with it 20 dollars will fill your tank up to a year JCI left! Additional Pictures available on request. Please contact Tom @ 904-229-0868 or 225-724-0 or e-mail ferg69@hotmail.com

Yokota, Japan - \$1000 1993 Toyota Mark II - JCI April 2010, Excellent Family Car! Get it now. Price is right! Over a year JCI left! Additional Pictures available on request. Please contact Tom @ 904-229-0868 or 225-724-0 JCI expire April 2010 asking \$1000 Please call 19042290868

Yokota, Japan - 1990 Nissan Fairlady 2 Twin Turbo / automatic JCI 27 July 2009 19,000 km (Re-Built Motor) T-Tops (Do Not Leak) Stitch 17" rims Tinted Fully Adjustable Suspension Stilled Front & Rear Sway Bars Cusco Tension Rods Cusco Camber Adjusters Stilled HICAS Elimination Kit HKTS Turbo-Timer Fluidize Transmission Cooler Hoses Radiator 2" Apexi Cat back Exhaust New Tires Hawk Performance Brake Pads Momo Steering Wheel Silencer for Exhaust (JCI Purposes) Kenwood CD Player w/ Remote Asking \$1500 OBO Please call 090-2826-1505

Yokota, Japan - 1992 Honda Inspire JCI until June 2009 \$1499.00. Negotiable, with 5 free movie tickets (Yokota Theater) Interested? JCI expires June 2009 asking \$1,499.99 Negotiable Please call 1 425 274 4394 0 8 0 - 3 3 9 0 - 5 9 6 0 jennybg808@yahoo.com

Yokota, Japan - 1996 Nissan Sunny Sedan - 4-door, silver, automatic w/ 6-CD changer. Very reliable! PCSing soon. JCI until July 2009. Asking \$850 OBO Please call 623-734-9626 or email scplless@yahoo.com

Autos for Sale

141

Yokota, Japan - 1992 White Nissan Skyline 92 Skyline in great condition! Has A/C for summer and Heat for the winter. Awesome CD player 5 speed Manual stick shift Asking \$2800 OBO Please Call 090-8302-2435 or e-mail jplp87@hotmail.com Thank you.

Yokota, Japan - 1993 Nissan Cedric - 4door. JCI will expire Nov. 2010 nearly 2 full yrs JCI! Great Car! Runs great, good shape P/W, P/L, P/S, Good A/C and heat Also, in dash touch screen CD/DVD/MP3 player. Asking \$2200 OBO Call 1.313.347.1017 if interested, first reasonable offer gets it!

Yokota, Japan - 1993 Nissan Cedric 4dr Nearly 2 full yrs JCI! Great Car! Run great, good shape, P/W, P/L, P/S, Good a/c and heat. Also, in dash touch screen CD/DVD/MP3 player. Nearly full yrs JCI! Great Car! P/L, P/S, Good A/C and heat. Call if interested, first reasonable offer gets it! Call 1.313.347.1017 asking \$2500 OBO JCI expire November 2011

Yokota, Japan - 1993 Toyota Mark II JCI April 2010 PCS'ing Need to sell ASAP! Excellent family car! Get it now! Price is right! Asking \$700 over a year JCI left! Additional Pictures available on request. Please contact Tom @ 904-229-0868 or 225-724-0 or e-mail ferg69@hotmail.com

Yokota, Japan - 1994 Toyota Avalon Car is excellent condition very reliable transportation. A/C/H/eat/E/xcellent Navigation/Local TV reception Cruise Control Picture posted JCI until April 2010 asking \$750 Call Ron at 090-3316-3119 or 757-273-0551 or 973-900-8965

Yokota, Japan - 1996 Honda Odyssey (Excellent Condition) Excellent condition once owned by Japanese owners. Japanese Owner does not want to deal with JCI so deciding to sell it. Went through a Super tune up including Timing belt changed Have list done by garage but in Japanese. Van does need JCI but should pass JCI inspection with no problem. Please call 080-1373-2338 or leave number on e-mail to come check the car out. Wants 100,000 yen (Dollar to Yen should be \$1000)

Yokota, Japan - 1996 Nissan Sunny Sedan - 4-door, silver, automatic w/ 6-CD changer. Very reliable! PCSing soon. JCI until July 2009. Asking \$850 OBO Please call 623-734-9626 or email scplless@yahoo.com

Yokota, Japan - 1996 RVR - JCI expire Oct 2010 1996 RVR w/ Reliable and spacious. Available for sub & amp installation owner. Asking \$3000 OBO March phone # 858-368-6844 ask for Aaron

Yokota - Really great car. 1996 Nissan Altima, JCI thru March 2010. Cold air, hot heat, new tires, runs great. Looks good. \$1200.00. 904-229-0520 or 090-6564-1665.

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Deadline to place, cancel, or make any change to an ad is five(5) business days prior to publishing date. If the ad has a typographical error, Pacific Stars and Stripes' liability is to re-run the ad for one (1) additional day on the next available issue date. Any other problem with advertising must be filed in writing no later than ten (10) days after the first insertion of the ad. Ads cannot be run upside down or sideways.

All Classified Advertisements Are Non-refundable

Classified advertising is accepted from DoD personnel (private party ad Classified advertisements) and all organizations which provide a service of interest to the military community (business advertisements). All ads are assessed before acceptance according to the moral and ethical judgment of Pacific Stars and Stripes. Classified advertisements must be acceptable for our general military/family readership. Pacific Stars and Stripes has the right to return any and all ads considered inappropriate for publication.



Announcements

040

Announcements

040

Autos for Sale

141

Autos for Sale

141

Autos for Sale

141

Auto Parts

180

Baby Items

200

Yokota - For Sale - \$400 OBO, 4ea, 18" wheels & tires, 6 Spoke, Alum universal wheels, Bridgestone Potenza G3, 225/45R 18 Tires, Call Larry 080-5050-0179

Baby Items

200

Asugui - Instep Safari double jogging stroller Red/gray. Swivel front wheel that will also lock for jogging. Individual reclining seats, parent console car cover, Sasha's kiddies sun/wind/bug cover with UV protection, 50lbs per seat, folds for storage, snack trays that attach to the belly bar (brand new) \$175 OBO. email: luffiff@hotmail.com

Yokota, Japan - Baby Girl clothing 6-12 months spring-summer I am selling our daughter's used clothes, all in excellent condition. There are over 50 pieces, including a winter Jacket, Carters, Oshkosh, gap etc. Please email me if you have any questions. Asking \$55 Please call 858-368-6874 or e-mail manjuperson@hotmail.com Thanks for Looking!

Yokota, Japan - Bundle of Baby Girl Clothing 3-6 months-Great Condition This bundle of Girl Clothing is in Great Condition. Some only worn twice, barely worn. Come from smoke-free pet free home 7 outfits, 1 play and sleep, 1 onesie, 1 flower shirt with purple pants, 1 striped long sleeve shirt with pink pants, 1 peach outfit with puppy & paws, 1 blue jean pants with lace with flower onesie, 1 brown cord pants with pink lace and matching flower shirt, 1 Carters pink cord 1 pink pants with striped shirt, 1 long sleeve I love to giggle onesie, 1 pink good night sleep and play. Asking \$25 Please email me at topekargers@hotmail.com

Yokota, Japan - Anthology of Language An introduction to linguistics and anthropology. Written by Harriet Joseph Orlentheimer Asking \$30 OBO Please call 3145583409 or email lily-481@hotmail.com

Yokota, Japan - Cultural Anthropology, 12th (IE) Written By: Conrad Phillip Kottak, Asking \$40 OBO Please call 3145583409 or email lily-481@hotmail.com

Yokota, Japan - The Western Experience, 8th Volume with CD-ROM and By Chambers, Hanawalt, Rabb, Woloch and Green Asking \$40 Please call 3145583409 or email lily-481@hotmail.com

Yokota, Japan - Understanding Computers Today & Tomorrow, 11th By: Morley & Parker; Hunt & Harrison. Asking \$60 OBO Please call 3145583409 or email lily. 481@hotmail.com

Yokota, Japan - Cell Phone Used, but still working cell phones. Soft Bank preferably. Please call 8019830672

Yokota, Japan - Girls-6-3 Months Ralph Lauren Polo Dress with matching bloomer in great condition. Come from a smoke free pet free home. Asking \$10 Please email topekargers@hotmail.com for PICS.

Yokota - 2004 GSX-R 600 K-4 Edition, yellow, mint condition, aftermarket full exhaust (Fish Bone), Ohlins steering damper, custom seat w/R emblem, headlight cover, new tires, JCI August 2010, very low mi, \$7900. Call 080-3204-2513 or email aladind002@yahoo.com for PICS.

Yokota - 1993 Kawasaki ZXR 400. Bike is in very good condition. Will have 2 years of PCS. Call or email for pictures. Kenneth.mengel@usmc.mil JCI 22-08-036 cell 090-666-1365 Asking \$2200 Please call 717-265-2657 or e-mail rashed.ashley@gmail.com

Yokota, Japan - Girl or Boy Sweatshirt-3-6 months-Great Condition only worn twice in great condition. Came from the Parents Place comes from a Smoke-Free, Pet-Free Home. Lime green sweatshirt with hood and matching pants. Comes with a matching shirt onesie with a bear on the front Asking \$10 E-mail topekargers@hotmail.com

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SCOREBOARD

Sports on AFN

Saturday

AFN-Sports, 3 a.m.—NBA: Boston at Dallas (dld).

AFN-Sports, 9 a.m.—NBA: 58th NBA All-Star Game, All-Star Weekend, celebrity game, rookie challenge, youth jam at Phoenix.

AFN-Xtra, 9 a.m.—College basketball: Illinois-Chicago at Butler.

AFN-Pacific, 11 a.m.—NHL: Montreal at Colorado.

AFN-Xtra, 11 a.m.—College basketball: Villanova at West Virginia.

AFN-Sports, 5 p.m.—College basketball: Villanova at West Virginia (dld).

AFN-Sports, 8 p.m.—NBA: 58th NBA All-Star Game, All-Star Weekend, rookie challenge, youth jam at Phoenix (dld).

Sunday

AFN-Sports, 2 a.m.—College basketball: Georgetown at Syracuse.

AFN-Atlantic, 3 a.m.—College basketball: UCLA at Arizona.

AFN-Xtra, 3:15 a.m.—Auto racing: NASCAR Nationwide Camping World 300 at Daytona Beach, Fla.

AFN-Sports, 4 a.m.—College basketball: Texas at Colorado.

AFN-Atlantic, 5:30 a.m.—College basketball: Kansas at Kansas State.

AFN-Xtra, 6 a.m.—College basketball: Cincinnati at Pittsburgh.

AFN-Atlantic, 8 a.m.—College basketball: Texas A&M at Baylor.

AFN-Xtra, 9 a.m.—College basketball: Mississippi at Louisiana State.

AFN-Sports, 10:30 a.m.—NBA: 58th NBA All-Star Game, All-Star Weekend, shooting stars, skills challenge, three-point shootout, slam-dunk contest at Phoenix.

AFN-Xtra, 11 a.m.—College basketball: Ohio State at Wisconsin.

AFN-Atlantic, noon.—College basketball: Texas Tech at Oklahoma (dld).

AFN-Xtra, 1 p.m.—College basketball: Connecticut at Seton Hall (dld).

AFN-Xtra, 3 p.m.—College basketball: Minnesota at Penn State (dld).

AFN-Sports, 5 p.m.—Cycling: Tour of California, preview and prologue, Sacramento (dld).

AFN-Xtra, 5 p.m.—NHL: Boston at Nashville (dld).

AFN-Xtra, 7:30 p.m.—NHL: Dallas at Chicago (dld).

AFN-Sports, 8 p.m.—NBA: 58th NBA All-Star Game, All-Star Weekend, shooting stars, skills challenge, three-point shootout, slam-dunk contest at Phoenix (dld).

AFN-Xtra, 10 p.m.—College basketball: Kentucky at Arkansas (dld).

AFN-Xtra, midnight.—College basketball: Florida at Georgia (dld).

All times are Japan and Korea Standard; (dld) indicates delayed broadcast. All listings are subject to change. Visit www.myafn.net for more information.

Golf

Women's Australian Open

| Thursday At Metrolopolitan golf Club Melbourne, Australia Par-73, 6,560 yards First round | |
|---|----------|
| Karrie Webb, Australia | 34-32—66 |
| Tania Elosegui, Spain | 35-34—69 |
| Ee Chang-hee, South Korea | 35-34—69 |
| Claire Queen, Scotland | 35-35—70 |
| Beatriz Recari, Spain | 37-33—70 |
| Kim Hye-youn, South Korea | 35-35—70 |
| Marianne Skarpnord, Norway | 37-34—71 |
| a-Rebecca Flood, Australia | 35-36—71 |
| Lynn Kenny, Scotland | 37-35—72 |
| Rebecca Hudson, England | 38-34—72 |
| Diana D'Alessio, United States | 36-36—72 |
| Emma Bennett, Australia | 36-36—72 |
| Martina Eberl, Germany | 37-35—72 |
| Choi Hee-yong, South Korea | 39-33—72 |
| a-Justine Lee, Australia | 38-35—73 |
| Beth Allen, United States | 37-36—73 |
| Nicole Garrett, Australia | 36-37—73 |
| Johanna Westberg, Sweden | 37-36—73 |
| Lydia Hall, Wales | 36-37—73 |
| Diana Luna, Italy | 38-35—73 |
| Georgina Simpson, England | 36-37—73 |
| a-Bree Arthur, Australia | 37-37—74 |

Boxing

Fight schedule

Feb. 14

At St. Quentin, France, Cristobal Cruz, Mexico, vs. Cyril Thomas, France, 12, for Cruz's IBF featherweight title; Osman Aktas, France vs. Guillaume Frenois, France, 10, for Aktas' French featherweight title.

At BankAtlantic Center, Sunrise, Fla., Nate Campbell, Tampa, Fla., vs. Ali Fuenka, South Africa, 12, for Campbell's IBF-WBO lightweight title; Sergio Martinez, Spain, vs. Kermit Cintron, Reading, Pa., 12, for the interim WBC light middleweight title; Francisco Palacios, Puerto Rico, vs. Lawrence Chapman, Atlanta, 12, for Palacios' WBA Fedatint cruiserweight title; Alfredo Angulo, Coahuila, Calif., vs. Cosme Rivera, Mexico, 10, middleweights; Ray Austin, Cleveland, vs. Alex Gonzales, Puerto Rico, 10, heavyweights.

Feb. 20

At Fort Lauderdale, Fla., Jesus Gonzales, Phoenix, vs. Richard Gutierrez, Miami, 10, light middleweights.

Tennis

Gaz de France

Wednesday
At Stade Pierre de Coubertin
Paris
Purse: \$700,000 (Premier)
Surface: Hard-Indoor

Singles

First Round

Patty Schnyder (6), Switzerland, def. Alona Bondarenko, Ukraine, 6-4, 7-6 (3).
Serena Williams (1), United States, def. Iveta Benesova, Czech Republic, 6-1, 6-4.
Amelie Mauresmo (8), France, def. Sara Errani, Italy, 6-2, 6-0.
Jelena Jankovic (2), Serbia, def. Francesca Schiavone, Italy, 7-5, 7-6 (2).
Elena Dementieva (3), Russia, def. Aravane Rezaï, France, 6-4, 6-3.

Second Round

Emilie Loiz, France, def. Kaia Kanepi, Estonia, 2-6, 6-3, 6-1.
Agnieszka Radwanska (4), Poland, def. Alisa Kleybanova, Russia, 6-7 (5), 6-4, 6-2.

SAP Open

Wednesday
At HP Pavilion
San Jose, Calif.
Purse: \$600,000 (WT250)
Surface: Hard-Indoor

Singles

First Round

John Isner, United States, def. Ramon Delgado, Paraguay, 7-6 (9), 6-4.
Sam Querrey (6), United States, def. Marcos Baghdatis, Cyprus, 6-3, 5-7, 7-6 (5).
Juan Martin del Potro (2), Argentina, def. Andrea Stoppini, Italy, 7-6 (5), 7-6 (5).
James Blake (3), United States, def. Vince Spadea, United States, 6-3, 6-4.

Second Round

Radek Stepanek (4), Czech Republic, def. Chris Guccione, Australia, 6-2, 7-6 (1).
Tommy Haas, Germany, def. Christophe Rochus, Belgium, 6-2, 7-5.

Brazil Open

Wednesday
At Costa do Saupe
Salvador, Brazil
Purse: \$562,500 (WT250)
Surface: Clay-Outdoor

Singles

Second Round

Nicolas Almagro (1), Spain, def. Martin Vassallo Arguello, Argentina, 6-4, 6-4.
Juan Carlos Ferrero, Spain, def. Brian Dabul, Argentina, 6-1, 6-2.
Eduardo Schwank (6), Argentina, def. Rui Machado, Portugal, 2-6, 7-6 (4), 7-6 (6).
Thomaz Bellucci, Brazil, def. Lukasz Kubot, Poland, 5-7, 6-4, 6-4.
Jose Acasuso (4), Argentina, def. Pablo Cuevas, Uruguay, 6-3, 6-2.
Alberto Martin, Spain, def. Nicolas Devilder (7), France, 6-2, 7-6 (4).
Tommy Robredo (2), Spain, def. Fabio Fognini, Italy, 6-2, 6-2.
Frederico Gil, Portugal, def. Marcel Granollers (5), Spain, 7-5, 3-6, 6-3.

ABN Amro

Wednesday
At Ahoy! Stadium
Rotterdam, Netherlands
Purse: \$1.87 million (WT500)
Surface: Hard-Indoor

Singles

First Round

Gilles Simon (4), France, def. Philipp Kohlschreiber, Germany, 7-5, 7-6 (1).
Mario Ancic, Croatia, def. Rainer Schuettler, Germany, 7-5, 6-2.
Michael Llodra, France, def. Ivo Karlovic, Croatia, 4-6, 6-3, 6-4.
Jo-Wilfried Tsonga (7), France, def. Jesse Huta Galung, Netherlands, 7-6 (4), 7-6 (4).
Marc Gicquel, France, def. Evgeny Korolev, Russia, 3-6, 6-3, 6-2.
Rafael Nadal (1), Spain, def. Simone Bolelli, Italy, 4-6, 6-2, 7-5.

Second Round

Mikhail Youzhny, Russia, def. David Ferrer (6), Spain, 6-2, 3-6, 6-2.
Julien Benetateau, France, def. Nikolay Davydenko (3), Russia, 6-3, 6-2.

Deals

Wednesday's transactions

BASEBALL

American League

CLEVELAND INDIANS—Named Frank Viola assistant spring training pitching coach.

TORONTO BLUE JAYS—Agreed to terms with INF Kevin Millar on a minor league contract.

National League

MILWAUKEE BREWERS—Agreed to terms with RHP Eduardo Morlan and RHP Cody Scarpetta on one-year contracts.

FOOTBALL

National Football League

CLEVELAND BROWNS—Named George McDonald offensive quality control coach.

DENVER BRONCOS—Released RB Anthony Aalridge, RB Alex Haynes, RB P.J. Pope, TE Chad Mustard and WR Cliff Russell.

DETROIT LIONS—Retained wide receivers coach Shawn Jefferson and running backs coach Sam Gash. Named Matt Burke linebackers coach, Jeff Horton quarterbacks coach, Bob Karmelovitz defensive line coach, Tim Walton secondary coach, George Yarno offensive line coach, Stan Kwan special teams coordinator, Jason Arapoff coordinator of physical development, Bradford Banta special teams assistant coach, Malcolm Blacken strength and conditioning coach, Don Clemens defensive quality control coach, Todd Downing offensive quality control coach, Kris Kocurek assistant defensive line coach, Tim Lappano tight ends coach and Daron Roberts assistant secondary coach.

JACKSONVILLE JAGUARS—Released WR Jerry Porter and CB Drayton Florence.

NEW YORK JETS—Announced the retirement of QB Brett Favre.

OAKLAND RAIDERS—Claimed QB Bruce Gradkowski off waivers from Cleveland.

SAN FRANCISCO 49ERS—Waived LB Tully Banta-Cain and S Keith Lewis.

WASHINGTON REDSKINS—Re-signed CB Byron Westbrook. Named Chip Garber defensive quality control coach.

HOCKEY

National Hockey League

ATLANTA THRASHERS—Assigned RW Matt Siddall from Gwinnett (ECHL) to Chicago (AHL).

BUFFALO SABRES—Recalled C Nathan Gerbe from Portland (AHL).

LOS ANGELES KINGS—Activated F Oscar Moller from injured reserve. Placed D Tom Preissing on injured reserve.

ST. LOUIS BLUES—Assigned F Yan Stastny to Peoria (AHL).

SAN JOSE SHARKS—Recalled F Ryan Vesce from Worcester (AHL).

WASHINGTON CAPITALS—Recalled C Jay Beagle from Hershey (AHL).

SOCCER

Major League Soccer

SAN JOSE EARTHQUAKES—Signed GK Andrew Weber to a multiyear contract.

COLLEGE

NCAA—Placed Eastern Washington University's football program on three years probation and banned it from postseason play next season for violations under former coach Paul Wulff.

HIGH POINT—Announced the resignation of women's volleyball coach Chad Esposito.

IPFW—Announced the resignation of men's golf coach David Fern.

PRESBYTERIAN—Named Tom Evangelista defensive coordinator and Jeff Wilson defensive assistant coach.

WASHINGTON—Named Jimmie Dougherty wide receivers coach.

College baseball

Wednesday's scores

SOUTH

Anderson, S.C., 9, North Georgia 5
Freder-Hardman 13, Christian Brothers 5

SOUTHWEST

Howard Payne 8, Southwestern, Texas 5

College basketball

AP Men's Top 25 fared

Wednesday

1. Connecticut (23-1) beat No. 23 Syracuse 63-49. Next: at Seton Hall, Saturday.

2. Oklahoma (24-1) beat Baylor 78-63. Next: vs. Texas Tech, Saturday.

3. North Carolina (22-2) beat No. 6 Duke 101-87. Next: at Miami, Sunday.

4. Pittsburgh (22-2) did not play. Next: vs. Cincinnati, Saturday.

5. Louisville (18-4) did not play. Next: at Notre Dame, Thursday.

6. Duke (20-4) lost to No. 3 North Carolina 101-87. Next: at Boston College, Sunday.

7. Wake Forest (18-4) lost to N.C. State 82-76. Next: vs. No. 25 Florida State, Saturday.

8. Memphis (21-3) beat Tulsa 63-37. Next: at Southern Mississippi, Saturday.

9. Michigan State (20-4) did not play. Next: at No. 20 Purdue, Tuesday.

10. Marquette (20-4) did not play. Next: vs. St. John's, Saturday.

11. UCLA (19-4) did not play. Next: at No. 18 Arizona State, Thursday.

12. Clemson (20-3) did not play. Next: at Virginia, Sunday.

13. Villanova (20-4) did not play. Next: at West Virginia, Friday.

14. Xavier (20-4) lost to Dayton 71-58. Next: vs. Fordham, Saturday.

15. Butler (21-2) did not play. Next: vs. Illinois-Chicago, Friday.

16. Kansas (19-5) did not play. Next: at Kansas State, Saturday.

17. Missouri (21-4) did not play. Next: vs. Nebraska, Saturday.

18. Arizona State (18-5) did not play. Next: vs. No. 11 UCLA, Thursday.

19. Gonzaga (17-5) did not play. Next: at Saint Mary's, Calif., Thursday.

20. Purdue (18-6) beat Penn State 61-47. Next: at Iowa, Saturday.

21. Utah State (23-1) did not play. Next: at Idaho, Thursday.

22. Illinois (19-5) did not play. Next: at Northwestern, Thursday.

23. Syracuse (18-7) lost to No. 1 Connecticut 63-49. Next: vs. Georgetown, Saturday.

24. Ohio State (17-5) did not play. Next: at Wisconsin, Saturday.

25. Florida State (19-5) did not play. Next: at No. 7 Wake Forest, Saturday.

Wednesday's men's scores

EAST

American U. 52, Bucknell 50
Brooklyn 80, Staten Island 77, OT
California, Pa. 64, Clarion 52
Cheyney 64, West Chester 57
Coast Guard 79, Clark U. 59
Colgate 71, Lafayette 54
Connecticut 63, Syracuse 49
Drexel 62, Northeastern 58
East Stroudsburg 82, Bloomsburg 71
Elizabethtown 76, Lycoming 56
Franklin & Marshall 87, Ursinus 81
Haverford 53, Washington, Md. 45
Holy Cross 62, Army 59
Indiana, Pa. 98, Lock Haven 68
Keystone 88, Lancaster Bible 53
Kings, Pa. 69, DeSales 64, OT
Kutztown 84, Mansfield 79
La Salle 68, George Washington 57
Lehigh 70, Navy 59
Maine 68, Hartford 63
Massachusetts 91, Fordham 68
Misericordia 88, FDU-Pearlman 84
Montclair St. 82, Berkeley 51
Moravian 85, Marywood 66
Muhlenberg 79, Swarthmore 53
N.Y. Tech 81, Molloy 71
Rhode Island 87, St. Bonaventure 80
Richard Stockton 65, Rowan 55
Rutgers-Camden 83, College of N.J. 77
Rutgers-Newark 51, Will. Paterson 43
Shippensburg 74, Millersville 45
St. Vincent 84, Thiel 56
Towson 82, Georgia St. 94, 2OT
Vermont 75, Boston U. 72, OT
Widener 64, Albright 51
Wilkes 54, Manhattantown 49
Worcester Tech 66, Springfield 62
York, N.Y. 71, Lehman 63

SOUTH

Auburn 75, Arkansas 62
Bryan 73, Va. Intermont 69
Coll. of Charleston 78, W. Carolina 67
Francis Marion 59, UNC Pembroke 54
Guilford 82, E. Mennonite 71
Hampden-Sydney 67, Roanoke 63
High Point 63, Winthrop 56
LSU 97, Mississippi St. 94, 2OT
Lenoir-Rhyne 67, Carson-Newman 53
Lincoln Memorial 87, Mars Hill 77
Longwood 77, Texas-Pan American 61
Memphis 63, Tulsa 37
N.C. State 82, Wake Forest 76
North Carolina 101, Duke 87

Richmond 71, Duquesne 67
Stephen F.Austin 59, Northwest St. 51
Tenn. Wesleyan 72, Union 60
Tennessee 79, Georgia 48
Thomas More 65, Washington & Jefferson 62
Tulane 73, East Carolina 64
UNC Asheville 67, C. Webb 78, OT
Va. Commonwealth 76, James Madison 71, OT
Virginia Tech 76, Georgia Tech 71
Washington & Lee 58, Lynchburg 55
William & Mary 69, UNC Wilmington 40
Wingate 67, Tusculum 55

MIDWEST

Adrian 77, Alma 62
Akron 63, Ball St. 55
Albion 73, Trine 67
Beloit 86, Carroll, Wis. 72, 2OT
Bowling Green 59, Toledo 54
Calvin 63, Hope 62
Capital 77, Mount Union 65
Cincinnati 71, St. John's 61
Concordia, Wis. 65, Lakeland 51
Creighton 79, Bradley 65
Dakota Wesleyan 70, Northwest., Iowa 68
Dayton 71, Xavier 58
Defiance 68, Mount St. Joseph 64
Dordt 83, Morehead 84
Gustavus 74, St. Olaf 55
Hanover 71, Rose-Hulman 66
Illinois St. 70, Evansville 68
Indiana St. 69, Drake 57
Iowa St. 70, Colorado 42
John Carroll 105, Heidelberg 84
Kalamazoo 70, Olivet 65
Kansas St. 85, Texas Tech 73
Marietta 79, Muskingum 73
Marshall St. 90, Dakota St. 77
Minot St. 77, Jamestown 68
Morningside 80, Sioux Falls 71
N. Iowa 81, S. Illinois 55
Neb. Wesleyan 66, Concordia, Neb. 59
North Central 65, Carthage 57
Oberlin 62, Kenyon 50
Ohio Wesleyan 83, Wittenberg 59
Otterbein 78, Baldwin-Wallace 72
Purdue 61, Penn St. 47
Saint Louis 69, Charlotte 61
St. Mary's, Minn. 84, Hamline 74
St. Norbert 77, Ripon 72
W. Michigan 76, Ohio 62
Wabash 80, Earlham 48
Wis.-River Falls 85, Wis.-La Crosse 83, OT

Wis.-Stevens Pt. 61, Wis.-Eau Claire 58
Wis.-Superior 67, Wis.-Stout 65
Wisconsin 69, Iowa 52
Wooster 102, Denison 92

SOUTHWEST

Austin 55, Dallas 49
Houston 69, SMU 56
McNeese St. 78, Texas-Arlington 59
Nicholls St. 60, Sam Houston St. 59
Oklahoma 78, Baylor 63
Rice 88, Southern Miss. 72
Texas A&M-Corpus Christi 70, Texas St. 59
Texas-San Antonio 88, Cent. Ark. 79
UTEP 73, UCF 69

FAR WEST

BYU 94, Colorado St. 60
CS Northridge 67, Cal Poly 55
New Mexico 76, Air Force 66
UC Riverside 73, Long Beach St. 70, 2OT
Utah 67, San Diego St. 55

Wednesday's women's scores

EAST

American U. 71, Bucknell 63
Army 63, Holy Cross 62
Boston U. 89, Stony Brook 71
Colgate 62, Lafayette 61
Connecticut 77, St. John's 64
Delaware 62, William & Mary 51
Duquesne 84, Saint Louis 66
Georgetown 69, Cincinnati 61
Hartford 74, Binghamton 54
Lehigh 66, Navy 48
Massachusetts 71, Temple 60
Saint Joseph's 75, La Salle 42
Vermont 73, UMB 49

SOUTH

Appalachian St. 72, Wofford 68
Florida Atlantic 66, Denver 58
Georgia Tech 89, Savannah 34
La-Monroe 82, Louisiana-Lafayette 53
Middle Tennessee 75, Troy 60
N.C. Central 68, Winston-Salem 66
Nicholls St. 76, Sam Houston St. 74
North Texas 62, New Orleans 52
South Alabama 66, Fla. International 52
Texas-Arlington 73, McNeese St. 47

MIDWEST

Ball St. 77, Kent St. 70
Cent. Michigan 67, Akron 57
DePaul 80, Seton Hall 39
E. Michigan 69, Buffalo 58
Louisville 71, Notre Dame 66
N. Illinois 80, Miami (Ohio) 66
W. Michigan 74, Ohio 56
Xavier 82, George Washington 62

SOUTHWEST

Arkansas St. 56, Ark.-Little Rock 55
Baylor 64, Oklahoma St. 62, OT
Oklahoma 58, Iowa St. 49
Stephen F.Austin 82, Northwestern St. 64
Texas 74, Kansas 66
Texas St. 66, Texas A&M-Corpus Christi 62
Texas Tech 60, Texas A&M 53
Texas-San Antonio 97, Cent. Arkansas 89, OT

FAR WEST

BYU 53, Colorado St. 51
Long Beach St. 63, CS Northridge 50
New Mexico 79, Air Force 33
San Diego St. 55, Utah 49
UC Riverside 79, CS Bakersfield 69

TANK McNAMARA



NHL scoreboard

Eastern Conference

| Atlantic Division | | | | | | |
|--------------------|----|----|----|-----|-----|-----|
| | W | L | OT | Pts | GF | GA |
| New Jersey | 35 | 17 | 3 | 73 | 172 | 136 |
| N.Y. Rangers | 30 | 20 | 5 | 65 | 140 | 153 |
| Philadelphia | 28 | 15 | 9 | 65 | 167 | 153 |
| Pittsburgh | 27 | 24 | 5 | 59 | 169 | 169 |
| N.Y. Islanders | 16 | 32 | 6 | 38 | 133 | 182 |
| Northeast Division | | | | | | |
| | W | L | OT | Pts | GF | GA |
| Boston | 39 | 9 | 7 | 85 | 190 | 126 |
| Montreal | 29 | 20 | 6 | 64 | 166 | 166 |
| Buffalo | 28 | 21 | 6 | 62 | 162 | 151 |
| Toronto | 20 | 24 | 10 | 50 | 161 | 198 |
| Ottawa | 19 | 25 | 8 | 46 | 125 | 150 |
| Southeast Division | | | | | | |
| | W | L | OT | Pts | GF | GA |
| Washington | 34 | 16 | 5 | 73 | 182 | 160 |
| Florida | 26 | 19 | 8 | 60 | 151 | 150 |
| Carolina | 27 | 22 | 5 | 59 | 142 | 156 |
| Tampa Bay | 18 | 25 | 11 | 47 | 135 | 167 |
| Atlanta | 19 | 32 | 5 | 43 | 157 | 194 |

Western Conference

| Central Division | | | | | | |
|--------------------|----|----|----|-----|-----|-----|
| | W | L | OT | Pts | GF | GA |
| Detroit | 36 | 11 | 7 | 79 | 204 | 157 |
| Chicago | 30 | 14 | 8 | 68 | 175 | 134 |
| Columbus | 26 | 23 | 5 | 57 | 145 | 152 |
| Nashville | 25 | 26 | 3 | 53 | 131 | 153 |
| St. Louis | 25 | 26 | 3 | 50 | 154 | 167 |
| Northwest Division | | | | | | |
| | W | L | OT | Pts | GF | GA |
| Calgary | 31 | 18 | 5 | 67 | 169 | 160 |
| Minnesota | 28 | 22 | 3 | 59 | 137 | 120 |
| Edmonton | 27 | 23 | 4 | 58 | 153 | 168 |
| Vancouver | 25 | 20 | 8 | 58 | 160 | 156 |
| Colorado | 25 | 29 | 1 | 51 | 148 | 169 |
| Pacific Division | | | | | | |
| | W | L | OT | Pts | GF | GA |
| San Jose | 37 | 7 | 8 | 82 | 178 | 123 |
| Anaheim | 28 | 24 | 5 | 61 | 159 | 158 |
| Dallas | 26 | 20 | 7 | 59 | 162 | 165 |
| Phoenix | 25 | 25 | 5 | 55 | 137 | 164 |
| Los Angeles | 24 | 21 | 7 | 55 | 138 | 145 |

Two points for a win, one point for overtime loss or shootout loss.

Wednesday's games

Chicago 3, Atlanta 1
New Jersey 4, N.Y. Islanders 2
N.Y. Rangers 5, Washington 4, SO
Ottawa 3, Buffalo 1
Pittsburgh 2, San Jose 1, SO
Minnesota 3, Colorado 2
Phoenix 1, Dallas 1
Anaheim 3, Calgary 2, OT
Edmonton 7, Montreal 2

Thursday's games

Florida at Carolina
Ottawa at Philadelphia
Minnesota at Detroit
Toronto at Tampa Bay
St. Louis at Nashville
Vancouver at Phoenix
Calgary at Los Angeles

Friday's games

Boston at New Jersey
Detroit at Columbus
San Jose at Buffalo
N.Y. Rangers at Florida
Chicago at St. Louis
Vancouver at Dallas
Montreal at Colorado

Saturday's games

N.Y. Islanders at Philadelphia
Edmonton at Los Angeles
Pittsburgh at Toronto
Columbus at Tampa Bay
Washington at Tampa Bay
Boston at Nashville
Ottawa at Minnesota
Dallas at Chicago
Calgary at Phoenix

Wednesday

Blackhawks 3, Thrashers 1

Chicago 0 2 1-3
Atlanta 0 1 0-1
Second Period—1, Chicago, Sharp 23 (Campbell, Barker), 14:06 (pp). 2, Atlanta, Kovalchuk 24 (Kozlov, Hainsey), 18:05 (pp). 3, Chicago, Toews 17 (Kane, Barker), 18:26 (pp).
Third Period—4, Chicago, Bolland 12 (Versteeg), 19:50 (en-sh).
Shots on Goal—Chicago 7-13-8—28.
Atlanta 7-14-16-37.
Power-play opportunities—Chicago 2 of 3; Atlanta 1 of 4.
Goalies—Chicago, Khabibulin 17-5-5 (37 shots-36 saves). Atlanta, Lehtonen 10-17-2 (27-25).
A—14,029 (18,545). T—2:18.

Senators 3, Sabres 1

Ottawa 1 2 0-3
Buffalo 0 0 1-1
First Period—1, Ottawa, Spezza 20 (Bell, Alfredsson), 5:51 (pp).
Second Period—2, Ottawa, Donovan 5 (McAmmond, Ruutu), 9:44, 3, Ottawa, Alfredsson 16 (Kuba, Bell), 12:15 (pp).
Third Period—4, Buffalo, Kotalik 11 (Connolly, Roy), 1:29 (pp).
Shots on Goal—Ottawa 5-11-7—23. Buffalo 9-12-11—32.
Power-play opportunities—Ottawa 2 of 6; Buffalo 1 of 12.
Goalies—Ottawa, Elliott 6-3-2 (32 shots-31 saves). Buffalo, Miller 26-14-5 (32-20).
A—18,690 (18,690). T—2:34.

Penguins 2, Sharks 1 (SO)

San Jose 0 0 1 0-1
Pittsburgh 0 1 0 0-2
Pittsburgh won shootout 1-0.
Second Period—1, Pittsburgh, Thomas 1 (Satan, Staal), 18:26.
Third Period—2, San Jose, Pavelski 14 (Michalek, Clowe), 11:07.
Shootout—San Jose 0 (Michalek NG, Pavelski NG, Boyle NG), Pittsburgh 1 (Sylkora NG, Malkin NG, Crosby G).
Shots on Goal—San Jose 15-6-14-2—37. Pittsburgh 11-10-14-1—36.
Power-play opportunities—San Jose 0 of 1; Pittsburgh 0 of 3.
Goalies—San Jose, B. Boucher 9-1-2 (36 shots-35 saves). Pittsburgh, Fleury 19-12-3 (37-36).
A—17,034 (16,940). T—2:32.

Wild 3, Avalanche 2

Colorado 1 0 1-2
Minnesota 1 1 1-3
First Period—1, Minnesota, Bouchard 12 (Nolan, Belanger), 8:19. 2, Colorado, Smyth 17 (Leopold, Wolski), 13:32.
Second Period—3, Minnesota, Nolan 13 (Zidlicky, Skoula), 13:44.
Third Period—4, Colorado, Smyth 18 (Liles, Hejduk), 7:23 (pp). 5, Minnesota, Miettinen 12 (Brunette, Koivu), 18:49.
Shots on Goal—Colorado 9-4-9—22. Minnesota 5-9-12—26.
Power-play opportunities—Colorado 1 of 7; Minnesota 0 of 3.
Goalies—Colorado, Raycroft 9-7-0 (26 shots-23 saves). Minnesota, Backstrom 27-17-2 (22-20).
A—18,568 (18,064). T—2:24.

Coyotes 1, Stars 0

Phoenix 0 1 0-1
Dallas 0 0 0-0
Second Period—1, Phoenix, Lusin 9 (Klee, Winnik), 2:19.
Shots on Goal—Phoenix 11-8-10—29. Dallas 8-17-8—33.
Power-play opportunities—Phoenix 0 of 2; Dallas 0 of 2.
Goalies—Phoenix, Bryzgalov 19-21-4 (33 shots-33 saves). Dallas, Turco 25-18-7 (29-28).
A—16,440 (18,532). T—2:19.

Ducks 3, Flames 2 (OT)

Calgary 1 1 0 0-2
Anaheim 0 1 1 1-3
First Period—1, Calgary, Bertuzzi 14 (Giordano, Langkow), 2:55.
Second Period—2, Anaheim, S.Niedermayer 7 (Perry, Pronger), 10:30 (pp). 3, Calgary, Glencross 9 (Bourque, Lombardi), 14:17.
Third Period—4, Anaheim, Morrison 9 (Getzlaf, Montador), 2:05.
Overtime—5, Anaheim, S.Niedermayer 8 (Marchant, Montador), :55.
Shots on Goal—Calgary 4-9-10-0—23. Anaheim 12-14-13-1—40.
Power-play opportunities—Calgary 0 of 4; Anaheim 1 of 5.
Goalies—Calgary, Kiprusoff 31-15-4 (40 shots-37 saves). Anaheim, Giguere 14-13-4 (23-21).
A—17,270 (17,174). T—2:26.

Oilers 7, Canadiens 2

Montreal 1 0 1-2
Edmonton 4 2 1-7
First Period—1, Edmonton, Gagner 6 (Nilsson, Cogliano), 5:41 (pp). 2, Edmonton, Stortini 3 (Gilbert), 13:31. 3, Edmonton, Cogliano 13 (Moreau, Pouliot), 14:41. 4, Edmonton, Hemsky 17 (Penner, Horcoff), 19:34 (pp). 5, Montreal, Dandenault 1 (Kovalev, Plekanec), 19:44.
Second Period—6, Edmonton, Brodzia 8 (Strudwick, Gilbert), 11:40 (sh). 7, Edmonton, Penner 13 (Hemsky, Horcoff), 17:19.
Third Period—8, Edmonton, Reddix 4 (Gilbert, Brodzia), 5:53 (pp). 9, Montreal, Bouillon 4 (Dandenault, Plekanec), 9:46.
Shots on Goal—Montreal 12-9-17—38. Edmonton 14-8-5—27.
Power-play opportunities—Montreal 0 of 7; Edmonton 3 of 7.
Goalies—Montreal, Price 18-11-5 (27 shots-20 saves). Edmonton, Roloson 18-13-4 (38-36).
A—16,839 (16,839). T—2:33.

Rangers 5, Capitals 4 (SO)

Washington 2 2 0 0-4
N.Y. Rangers 1 3 0 0-5
N.Y. Rangers won shootout 2-1.
First Period—1, N.Y. Rangers, Callahan 13 (Korpikoski), 7:33. 2, Washington, Fleischmann 16 (Fehr, Fedorov), 10:51. 3, Washington, Fehr 7 (Fleischmann, Alzner), 18:08.
Second Period—4, N.Y. Rangers, Korpikoski 4 (Staal, Callahan), 8:49. 5, Washington, Green 20 (Ovechkin, Backstrom), 10:32. 6, N.Y. Rangers, Naslund 17 (Dawes, Gomez), 11:39. 7, N.Y. Rangers, Mara 5 (Gomez, Dubinsky), 16:00. 8, Washington, Green 21 (Nylander, Morrison), 19:02.
Shootout—Washington 1 (Nylander NG, Fedorov NG, Ovechkin G, Laich NG), N.Y. Rangers 2 (Naslund NG, Dawes G, Zherdev NG, Callahan G).
A—18,200 (18,200). T—2:47.

Devils 4, Islanders 2

N.Y. Islanders 1 1 0-2
New Jersey 1 1 2-4
First Period—1, N.Y. Islanders, Martinek 2 (Comeau, Witt), 2:32. 2, New Jersey, Parise 33 (Martin, Oduya), 18:39.
Second Period—3, N.Y. Islanders, Okposo 11, 6:15 (pp). 4, New Jersey, Langenbrunner 16 (Martin, Parise), 16:21 (pp).
Third Period—5, New Jersey, Parise 34 (Martin, Elias), 12:35 (pp). 6, New Jersey, Langenbrunner 17 (Parise, Zajac), 18:57 (en).
Shots on Goal—N.Y. Islanders 6-9-10—25. New Jersey 13-18-19—50.
Power-play opportunities—N.Y. Islanders 1 of 3; New Jersey 2 of 5.
Goalies—N.Y. Islanders, J.MacDonald 11-23-4 (49 shots-46 saves). New Jersey, Weekes 6-4-0 (25-23).
A—14,251 (17,625). T—2:25.
Shots on Goal—Washington 13-8-6—30. N.Y. Rangers 9-11-9-3—32.
Power-play opportunities—Washington 0 of 2; N.Y. Rangers 0 of 6.
Goalies—Washington, Theodore 20-10-3 (32 shots-28 saves). N.Y. Rangers, Lundqvist 25-16-4 (30-26).
A—18,200 (18,200). T—2:47.

NHL roundup

Caps' Green ties goal mark in shootout loss to Rangers

The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Mike Green isn't used to goalies keeping him from putting the puck in the net. So forgive him for being annoyed when a few first-period chances failed to get past Henrik Lundqvist.

By the time the second period was over, the Washington Capitals' high-scoring defenseman had Lundqvist figured out, too, and forced his way into the NHL record book.

Green scored for the seventh straight game to tie the 25-year-old mark for defensemen and then scored again in the second period. It wasn't enough as the Capitals fell to Lundqvist and the New York Rangers 5-4 in a shootout on Wednesday night.

Green put the Capitals in front 3-2 with a hard, rising wrist from just inside the top edge of the right circle at 10:32. That tied the record set by Boston's Mike O'Connell, who scored in seven straight games during the 1983-84 season.

He got Washington even at 4 with 57.6 seconds left in the second period. Green celebrated both goals with emphatic slams against the glass in the Rangers zone.

"I was pretty excited," said Green, who leads NHL defensemen with 21 goals and 49 points. "It was frustrating there. I had some chances in the first period, and I finally got one by him. I don't know if you've seen my reaction, but I was pretty jacked."

"It was anger, emotion, happy, sad. I was pretty wound up."

So were the Rangers when they finally snapped a season-high, five-game losing streak that threatened to derail their playoff plans.

Ryan Callahan scored the decisive goal in the shootout with a drive that struck the crossbar and then caromed in off the skates and stick of surprised Washington goalie Jose Theodore.

"To be honest, I thought when it hits the crossbar and comes back out it's no play," a disappointed Theodore said. "I didn't really try to get out of the way because for me it was no goal."

"Obviously, I was wrong, so it's a lesson that I learned, I guess."

The Rangers were on an 0-4-1 skid and needed a victory to ensure they wouldn't fall to seventh place in the Eastern Conference. Instead they moved up into a fourth-place tie with Philadelphia.

"I hit the crossbar and I didn't think it went in," Callahan said. "I heard it hit the crossbar, and as I turned back I saw it go off his leg and in the net. I got a little bit lucky and I'll take it."

New York coach Tom Renney admitted he also wasn't aware of the shootout rule that allows a goal to stand if it hits a post and caroms in off the goalie.

"No, not at all," he said, "but



KATHY WILLENS/AP

The Washington Capitals' Mike Green scored in the second period of a 5-4 shootout loss to the New York Rangers on Wednesday night in New York, tying the NHL record for consecutive games with a goal for a defenseman, at seven.

I'm OK with it."

That was the difference on a night otherwise dominated by Green.

Washington, the leader in the Southeast Division, was caught by the Atlantic Division-leading New Jersey Devils in the race for the No. 2 seed in the East. Both teams have 73 points in 55 games, but the Devils have 35 victories — one more than the Capitals.

"It felt like a playoff game out there," Green said. "I think we're happy with the point. Obviously we wanted that second one, but we played well."

Callahan, who had a goal and assist, scored in the fourth round of the tiebreaker. Lundqvist sealed the win by stopping Brooks Laich. Nigel Dawes also scored in the shootout for the Rangers, but Alex Ovechkin forced the extra round.

Despite going 0-for-6 on the power play — including five chances and a brief two-man advantage in the scoreless third period — the Rangers shook off two blown leads and rallied to win.

Lauri Korpikoski, Markus Naslund and Paul Mara also had goals for the Rangers, who hadn't scored more than three in their previous six games and had been outscored 22-5 during their skid.

"We really needed that," said Lundqvist, who made 26 saves. "We needed that confidence. We needed those points, too."

Tomas Fleischmann and Eric Fehr scored first-period goals for the Capitals, who also led twice. Theodore stopped 28 shots.

Penguins 2, Sharks 1 (SO): Sidney Crosby's hard wrist shot fooled San Jose goalie Brian Boucher for the only goal in the shootout.

Marc-Andre Fleury stopped 36 shots to help Pittsburgh win for the third time during a four-game

homestand. San Jose, coming off a victory at Boston on Tuesday in a matchup of the two NHL conference leaders, is 1-2-2 in its past five games.

Devils 4, Islanders 2: At Newark, N.J., Zach Parise had two goals, including the winner, and added two assists to help New Jersey win for the 11th time in 13 games.

Parise has a career-high 34 goals, two more than last season.

Jamie Langenbrunner also scored twice, defenseman Paul Martin had three assists, and Kevin Weekes made 23 saves in New Jersey's fourth straight victory over New York this season.

Senators 3, Sabres 1: At Buffalo, N.Y., Daniel Alfredsson had a goal and assist and Ottawa won consecutive games for only the sixth time this season.

Jason Spezza and Shean Donovan also scored to help the Senators complete a home-and-home sweep against Buffalo following a shootout victory in Ottawa on Saturday. Brian Elliott made 31 saves, allowing only Ales Kotalik's power-play goal in the third.

Wild 3, Avalanche 2: At St. Paul, Minn., Antti Miettinen's one-timer with 1:11 remaining off a pass from former Colorado forward Andrew Brunette was the winner for the Wild.

Pierre-Marc Bouchard and Owen Nolan also scored for Minnesota. Ryan Smyth scored twice for Colorado, which has lost five straight road games.

Coyotes 1, Stars 0: At Dallas, Ilya Bryzgalov stopped 33 shots for his eighth career NHL shutout, and Enver Lisin scored in the second period to help Phoenix end a six-game losing streak.

Bryzgalov has three shutouts this season, two against Dallas, including a 1-0 shootout win Jan. 10. He's 3-1-1 against the Stars this season.

Blackhawks 3, Thrashers 1: At Atlanta, Patrick Sharp and Jonathan Toews scored power-play goals, and Nikolai Khabibulin made 36 saves for Chicago.

Dave Bolland added an empty-net goal. Ilya Kovalchuk scored for Atlanta.

Ducks 3, Flames 2 (OT): Scott Niedermayer scored his second goal of the game 55 seconds into overtime to lift the Ducks.

Brendan Morrison also scored for Anaheim, and Jean-Sebastien Giguere stopped 21 shots in his third straight start. Curtis Glen-cross and Todd Bertuzzi scored for Calgary, which has lost nine straight in Anaheim.

Oilers 7, Canadiens 2: Ales Hemsky, Dustin Penner, Andrew Cogliano and Kyle Brodzia each had a goal and an assist, and Edmonton extended Montreal's road losing streak to seven games.

Sam Gagner, Zack Stortini and Liam Reddix also scored to help the Oilers snap a two-game skid. Mathieu Dandenault and Francis Bouillon scored for Montreal.

NBA roundup

Pierce carries Celts to win over Hornets

The Associated Press

NEW ORLEANS—Paul Pierce more than made up for the thumb injury that sidelined Ray Allen and the foul trouble that limited Kevin Garnett.

Pierce scored 30 points and the Boston Celtics spoiled Chris Paul's return from injury with an 89-77 victory over the New Orleans Hornets on Wednesday night.

"Night in and night out I don't know what the team is going to need from me," Pierce said. "Obviously my scoring was needed, so I had to step up. I just feel out the game, see how it's going and play from there."

Limited to less than 30 minutes after committing his fourth foul in the third quarter, Garnett still finished with 14 points and 10 rebounds. Eddie House scored eight of his 12 points in the final period to help Boston pull away for its eighth straight road victory.

Paul, who had missed four games with a right groin strain, finished with 13 points and five assists in 32 minutes. He was disappointed with the loss, but satisfied with how he felt physically after the game.

"I was a little nervous about what I could do," Paul said. "It's one thing in practice, playing two-on-two, but it's another thing playing at game speed. But I'm excited because now I feel good to go."

Allen wore a wrap on his right hand in the locker room following the game, but said he'd try to play Thursday night in Dallas.

David West had 15 points and Hilton Armstrong 14 for New Orleans.

With the game 64-64 through three quarters, Paul rested during the first 5 minutes of the fourth, when House made two three-pointers and scored eight points to help the Celtics surge to a 79-67 lead.

Rajon Rondo added a difficult floater in the lane and fed a bounce pass to Leon Powe for a dunk during the spurt.

Paul returned with about 7 minutes to go, but it was too late. Rasual Butler's three-pointer got New Orleans within eight points with a little over 6 minutes left, but Pierce fed Powe for another dunk to get Boston's lead back to 10, Garnett added a jumper and the Celtics led by double digits the rest of the way.

Powe finished with 11 points for Boston and Rondo had 11 assists.

Cavaliers 109, Suns 92: At Cleveland, Mo Williams scored a career-high 44 points and LeBron James added 26 as the Cavs bounced back from their first two-game losing slide this season with their 40th victory.

Nuggets 82, Magic 73: Carmelo Anthony had 29 points and eight rebounds, and Denver ended a 15-game losing streak in Orlando. Kenyon Martin scored 13 points, Nene added 12 and Chauncey Billups had 11 points for the Nuggets, who hadn't won



BILL HABER/AP

Boston Celtics guard Paul Pierce, right, tries to get around New Orleans Hornets forward Peja Stojakovic in the first half Wednesday night in New Orleans. Pierce scored 30 points in the Celtics' 89-77 victory.

in Orlando since March 10, 1992.

Raptors 91, Spurs 89: Roko Ukic scored a career-high 22 points, Andrea Bargnani had 23 and host Toronto won for only the second time in eight games.

Hawks 99, Pistons 95: At Auburn Hills, Mich., Joe Johnson scored 27 points, Flip Murray had 23 and the Hawks (31-21) matched the most wins they've had at the All-Star break in a decade.

Bobcats 101, Wizards 89: At Charlotte, N.C., D.J. Augustin scored 24 points and Vladimir Radmanovic added 21 in another strong game for his new team.

76ers 91, Grizzlies 87: At Philadelphia, Andre Iguodala scored 18 points and made the winning basket with 26 seconds left, lifting the 76ers to a fourth straight victory.

Rockets 94, Kings 82: At Houston, Yao Ming had 24 points and 18 rebounds, Rafer Alston dished out a season-high 13 assists and the Rockets won again without injured Tracy McGrady.

Bucks 122, Pacers 110: Richard Jefferson scored 22 of his 32 points in the second half and Ramon Sessions added 15 points and a season-high 17 assists for host Milwaukee.

Jazz 113, Lakers 109: At Salt Lake City, Deron Williams had 31 points and 11 assists and the Jazz snapped the Lakers' seven-game winning streak.

Clippers 128, Knicks 124 (OT): At Los Angeles, Eric Gordon scored 30 points and the Clippers rallied from 10 points down in the fourth quarter to beat the Knicks in overtime.

Trail Blazers 106, Thunder 92: At Portland, Ore., Brandon Roy scored 22 points and reserve Travis Outlaw had 21 for the Trail Blazers. Greg Oden had 16 points and 10 rebounds for his rookie-leading 16th double-double of the season.

NBA scoreboard

Eastern Conference

| Atlantic Division | | | | |
|-------------------|----|----|------|-----|
| | W | L | Pct | GB |
| Boston | 43 | 11 | .796 | — |
| Philadelphia | 27 | 24 | .529 | 14½ |
| New Jersey | 24 | 29 | .453 | 18½ |
| New York | 21 | 31 | .404 | 21 |
| Toronto | 21 | 34 | .382 | 22½ |

| Southeast Division | | | | |
|--------------------|----|----|------|-----|
| | W | L | Pct | GB |
| Orlando | 38 | 13 | .745 | — |
| Atlanta | 31 | 21 | .596 | 7½ |
| Miami | 27 | 24 | .529 | 11 |
| Charlotte | 21 | 31 | .404 | 17½ |
| Washington | 11 | 42 | .208 | 28 |

| Central Division | | | | |
|------------------|----|----|------|-----|
| | W | L | Pct | GB |
| Cleveland | 40 | 11 | .784 | — |
| Detroit | 27 | 24 | .529 | 13 |
| Milwaukee | 26 | 29 | .473 | 16 |
| Chicago | 23 | 29 | .442 | 17½ |
| Indiana | 21 | 33 | .389 | 20½ |

Western Conference

| Southwest Division | | | | |
|--------------------|----|----|------|-----|
| | W | L | Pct | GB |
| San Antonio | 35 | 16 | .686 | — |
| Dallas | 31 | 20 | .608 | 4 |
| Houston | 32 | 21 | .604 | 4 |
| New Orleans | 30 | 20 | .600 | 4½ |
| Memphis | 15 | 37 | .288 | 20½ |

| Northwest Division | | | | |
|--------------------|----|----|------|----|
| | W | L | Pct | GB |
| Denver | 36 | 17 | .679 | — |
| Portland | 32 | 19 | .627 | 3 |
| Utah | 30 | 23 | .566 | 6 |
| Minnesota | 17 | 34 | .333 | 18 |
| Oklahoma City | 13 | 40 | .245 | 23 |

| Pacific Division | | | | |
|------------------|----|----|------|-----|
| | W | L | Pct | GB |
| L.A. Lakers | 42 | 10 | .808 | — |
| Phoenix | 28 | 23 | .549 | 13½ |
| Golden State | 18 | 35 | .340 | 24½ |
| L.A. Clippers | 13 | 40 | .245 | 29½ |
| Sacramento | 11 | 43 | .204 | 32 |

Tuesday's games

| | |
|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Atlanta 111, Washington 90 | Indiana 96, Cleveland 95 |
| Denver 99, Miami 82 | San Antonio 108, New Jersey 93 |
| Toronto 110, Minnesota 102 | Chicago 107, Detroit 102 |
| Dallas 118, Sacramento 100 | Golden State 144, New York 127 |
| L.A. Lakers 105, Oklahoma City 98 | |

Wednesday's games

| | |
|--------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Denver 82, Orlando 73 | Cleveland 109, Phoenix 92 |
| Toronto 91, San Antonio 89 | Philadelphia 91, Memphis 87 |
| Charlotte 101, Washington 89 | Atlanta 99, Detroit 95 |
| Milwaukee 122, Indiana 110 | Boston 89, New Orleans 77 |
| Houston 94, Sacramento 82 | Utah 113, L.A. Lakers 109 |
| Portland 106, Oklahoma City 92 | L.A. Clippers 128, New York 124, OT |

Thursday's games

| | |
|--------------------------|------------------|
| Miami at Chicago | Boston at Dallas |
| Portland at Golden State | |

Friday's games

| | |
|--------------------|--|
| No games scheduled | |
|--------------------|--|

Saturday's games

| | |
|--------------------|--|
| No games scheduled | |
|--------------------|--|

Sunday's game

| | |
|--------------------------|--|
| All-Star Game at Phoenix | |
|--------------------------|--|

Wednesday

Nuggets 82, Magic 73

DENVER — Anthony 7-18 15-18 29, Martin 5-9 3-13 13, Nene 4-8 4-6 12, Billups 4-12 1-11, Jones 0-2 0-0 0, Petro 1-1 0-0 2, Smith 3-7 0-8, Carter 2-4 0-5, Kleiza 1-5 0-2. Totals 27-66 23-28 82.

ORLANDO — Turkoglu 2-12 6-6 11, Lewis 4-13 1-12, Howard 4-7 8-14 16, Johnson 1-5 2-2 4, Pietrus 3-12 0-9, Lee 3-7 3-4 10, Battie 1-3 0-0 2, Lue 2-6 0-0 5, Gortat 1-3 0-0 2, Redick 0-1 2-2 2. Totals 21-69 22-29 73.

Denver 24 22 27 19-82
Orlando 17 12 22 22-73
Three-Point Goals—Denver 5-15 (Smith 2-3, Billups 2-6, Carter 1-2, Kleiza 0-4), Orlando 9-31 (Lewis 3-7, Pietrus 3-9, Lee 1-1, Turkoglu 1-4, Lue 1-5, Redick 0-1, Battie 0-1, Johnson 0-3). Fouled Out—Turkoglu. Rebounds—Denver 44 (Anthony 8), Orlando 55 (Howard 15). Assists—Denver 13 (Billups 4), Orlando 12 (Turkoglu 5). Total Fouls—Denver 28, Orlando 26. Technicals—Anthony, Smith, Denver defensive three second, Lewis. A—17,461 (17,461).

Cavaliers 109, Suns 92

PHOENIX — Hill 6-8 2-14, Stoudemire 9-21 9-10 27, O'Neal 5-7 1-11, Barbosa 4-10 0-9, Richardson 4-8 1-2 10, Amundson 0-0 1-4, Dragic 4-5 1-2 9, Barnes 1-7 2-2 4, Lopez 0-2 0-0, Dudley 2-3 0-4, Tucker 1-2 0-3. Totals 36-73 15-29 92.

CLEVELAND — James 8-18 8-26, Wallace 1-4 0-2, Iguodala 5-5 0-0 0, Williams 18-26 1-34, Szczerbiak 4-13 1-11, Varejao 6-8 1-2 13, Gibson 3-7 2-2 9, Hickson 0-3 0-0 0, Jackson 0-1 0-0 0, Johnson 0-4 0-4. Totals 41-89 16-20 109.

Phoenix 29 23 23 21-92
Cleveland 29 35 23 32-109
Three-Point Goals—Phoenix 3-11 (Tucker 1-1, Richardson 1-2, Barbosa 1-3, Dudley 0-1, Barnes 0-4), Cleveland 11-26 (Williams 7-9, Szczerbiak 2-8, Gibson 1-3, James 1-5, Jackson 0-1). Fouled Out—None. Rebounds—Phoenix 50 (Barnes, Stoudemire 6), Cleveland 46 (Wallace 11). Assists—Phoenix 22 (Barbosa 7), Cleveland 17 (Williams 7). Total Fouls—Phoenix 19, Cleveland 20. Technical—Phoenix defensive three second, Flagrant Foul—O'Neal. A—20,562 (20,562).

Raptors 91, Spurs 89

SAN ANTONIO — Finley 1-3 0-0 2, Duncan 8-18 4-6 20, Bonner 0-4 0-0 0, TParker 9-20 4-4 22, Mason 4-11 0-0 9, Ginobili 12-23 4-5 32, Thomas 1-2 0-0 2, Hill 1-2 0-0 2, Oberto 0-0 0-0 0, Hairston 0-1 0-0 0, Bowen 0-2 0-0 0. Totals 36-86 12-15 89.

TORONTO — Graham 0-0 0-0 0, Bargnani 8-21 6-6 23, O'Neal 2-11 3-4 7, A.Parker 4-8 1-2 10, Kapono 9-16 2-2 21, Moon 3-7 1-1 8, Voskuil 0-2 0-0 0, Ukic 9-13 2-2. Totals 35-78 15-17 91.

San Antonio 22 21 26 20-89

Toronto 20 19 28 24-91

Three-Point Goals—San Antonio 5-13 (Ginobili 4-7, Mason 1-2, Finley 0-1, Bonner 0-3), Toronto 6-15 (Ukic 2-3, A.Parker 1-2, Moon 1-2, Kapono 1-3, Bargnani 1-5). Fouled Out—None. Rebounds—San Antonio 52 (Duncan 13), Toronto 46 (O'Neal 10). Assists—San Antonio 21 (Duncan 7), Toronto 13 (A.Parker 4). Total Fouls—San Antonio 17, Toronto 17. A—18,909 (18,900).

76ers 91, Grizzlies 87

MEMPHIS — Ross 2-5 0-5, Warrick 12-19 7-9 31, Gasol 4-5 3-4 11, Conley 6-14 1-1 13, Mayo 5-17 2-2 16, Millicic 1-2 0-0 2, Buckner 3-5 0-7, Miles 0-2 0-0 0, Jaric 1-4 0-0 2. Totals 34-73 13-16 87.

PHILADELPHIA — Iguodala 7-12 4-7 18, Young 6-17 0-0 12, Dalembert 3-4 2-4 8, Miller 9-11 6-6 24, Green 2-6 2-3 6, Ratliff 1-1 0-0 2, Williams 2-8 0-0 4, Speights 5-7 0-0 10, Ivey 2-6 1-2 7, Evans 0-0 0-0 0. Totals 37-72 15-24 91.

Memphis 18 19 22 28-87

Philadelphia 26 15 23 27-91

Three-Point Goals—Memphis 6-16 (Mayo 4-10, Ross 1-1, Buckner 1-2, Jaric 0-1, Conley 0-2), Philadelphia 2-11 (Ivey 2-4, Iguodala 0-2, Williams 0-2, Young 0-3). Fouled Out—None. Rebounds—Memphis 50 (Gasol 9), Philadelphia 36 (Dalembert 17). Assists—Memphis 19 (Mayo 5), Philadelphia 24 (Miller 9). Total Fouls—Memphis 22, Philadelphia 19. Technicals—Dalembert, Philadelphia defensive three second. A—12,812 (20,318).

Bobcats 101, Wizards 89

WASHINGTON — McGuire 3-8 0-0 7, Jamison 8-19 4-4 23, Songaila 3-8 0-0 6, James 2-5 0-0 6, Butler 10-19 4-5 26, Young 3-10 0-7, McGee 3-9 2-2 8, Crittenston 3-6 0-2 6, Dixon 0-0 0-0 0. Totals 35-84 13-10 89.

CHARLOTTE — Radmanovic 8-14 0-0 21, Diaw 7-15 0-1 14, Okafor 4-7 8-16 16, Felton 7-16 0-0 15, Augustin 7-12 6-6 24, Martin 3-8 2-4 9, May 1-1 0-0 2, Singletary 0-1 0-0 0, Dion 0-0 0-0 0, Ajinca 0-0 0-0 0. Totals 37-74 16-21 101.

Washington 21 24 18 26-89

Charlotte 24 32 21 24-101

Three-Point Goals—Washington 9-18 (Jamison 3-5, James 2-3, Butler 2-3, McGuire 1-2, Young 1-5), Charlotte 11-27 (Radmanovic 5-10, Augustin 4-7, Felton 1-3, Martin 1-3, Diaw 0-4). Fouled Out—None. Rebounds—Washington 47 (Jamison 9), Charlotte 47 (Okafor 13). Assists—Washington 24 (Butler 6), Charlotte 28 (Felton 9). Total Fouls—Washington 19, Charlotte 17. A—10,237 (19,077).

Hawks 99, Pistons 95

ATLANTA — Williams 4-9 2-2 11, Smith 5-12 0-2 10, Horford 6-11 3-4 15, Bibby 1-5 2-2 5, Johnson 10-16 6-6 27, Pachulia 1-1 2-4 5, Evans 1-2 2-2 4, Murray 10-18 2-3 23. Totals 38-74 19-23 99.

DETROIT — Prince 4-10 4-6 12, A.Johnson 2-3 0-0 4, Wallace 4-8 0-0 9, Stuckey 5-11 1-2 12, Iversen 11-20 3-6 28, Hamilton 6-16 2-2 14, Afflalo 0-1 0-0 0, Maxwell 3-5 0-0 6, McDyeys 4-5 2-3 10. Totals 39-79 12-19 95.

Atlanta 24 24 28 23-99

Detroit 24 22 22 27-95

Three-Point Goals—Atlanta 4-11 (Williams 1-1, Johnson 1-2, Bibby 1-3, Murray 1-3, Smith 0-1, Evans 0-1), Detroit 5-13 (Iversen 3-6, Stuckey 1-1, Wallace 1-2, Prince 0-2, Hamilton 0-2). Fouled Out—None. Rebounds—Atlanta 38 (Williams 8), Detroit 48 (McDyeys 10). Assists—Atlanta 19 (Smith 7), Detroit 19 (Prince 8). Total Fouls—Atlanta 16, Detroit 22. A—20,124 (22,076).

Bucks 122, Pacers 110

INDIANA — Granger 5-18 13-13 26, Murphy 9-14 0-23, Hibbert 4-5 0-8 8, Ford 3-10 8-14, Jack 8-16 3-3 21, Nesterovic 3-9 0-0 6, Rush 4-10 0-1 9, Baston 1-1 1-2 3, Diener 0-3 0-0 0, Graham 0-0 0-0 0. Totals 37-85 25 110.

MILWAUKEE — Jefferson 10-18 8-10 32, Villanueva 7-15 3-3 17, Elson 3-4 0-6 6, Sessions 3-6 9-13 15, Mbah a Moute 2-8 4-8 8, Allen 1-1 0-0 2, Gadzuric 1-3 0-0 2, Bell 5-13 2-4 20, Gill 3-3 0-7 7, Bogans 2-3-3, Alexander 2-4 0-0 4. Totals 42-78 29-41 122.

Indiana 28 31 25 26-110

Milwaukee 31 26 33 32-122

Three-Point Goals—Indiana 11-28 (Murphy 5-9, Granger 3-9, Jack 2-4, Rush 1-3, Diener 0-3), Milwaukee 9-14 (Jefferson 4-6, Bogans 2-2, Bell 2-3, Gill 1-1, Villanueva 0-2). Fouled Out—None. Rebounds—Indiana 44 (Murphy 10), Milwaukee 55 (Mbah a Moute 11). Assists—Indiana 25 (Ford 13), Milwaukee 32 (Sessions 17). Total Fouls—Indiana 32, Milwaukee 24. Technicals—Indiana defensive three second, Milwaukee defensive three second. A—13,486 (18,177).

Celtics 89, Hornets 77

BOSTON — Pierce 10-19 10-12 30, Garnett 7-13 0-0 14, Perkins 4-8 1-1 9, Rondo 3-11 0-2 6, R.Allen 0-3 1-1 1, Powe 3-3 5-6 11, Walker 0-0 0-0 0, Davis 2-5 0-0 4, House 5-11 0-0 2, Pruitt 1-6 0-0 2. Totals 35-79 17-22 89.

NEW ORLEANS — Stojakovic 3-12 1-1 8, West 3-12 9-15 15, Armstrong 4-8 6-6 14, Paul 6-15 1-13 13, Butler 3-6 0-0 7, Daniels 1-2 1-2 3, Marks 2-4 1-2 5, Posey 2-2 2-6 6, Bowen 0-0 0-0 0, Brown 2-2 2-3 6, Wright 0-1 0-0 0. Totals 26-64 23-29 77.

Boston 23 19 22 25-89

New Orleans 21 23 20 13-77

Three-Point Goals—Boston 2-14 (House 2-5, Rondo 0-1, R.Allen 0-2, Pierce 0-3, Pruitt 0-3), New Orleans 2-11 (Butler 1-3, Stojakovic 1-6, Paul 0-2). Fouled Out—None. Rebounds—Boston 51 (Garnett 10), New Orleans 42 (West 8). Assists—Boston 19 (Rondo 11), New Orleans 16 (Daniels, Paul 5). Total Fouls—Boston 20, New Orleans 23. Technicals—Davis, Boston coach Rivers, Boston defensive three second 3, Paul. A—18,080 (17,188).

Rockets 94, Kings 82

SACRAMENTO — Salmons 1-7 0-0 2, Thompson 16-10 2-4 14, Hawes 6-12 0-0 12, Udrih 5-7 0-0 10, Martin 5-11 7-8 18, Williams 2-5 0-0 4, Garcia 2-7 3-4 7, Jackson 5-8 3-5 15, Thomas 0-1 0-0 0. Totals 32-68 15-21 82.

HOUSTON — Battier 2-6 0-0 5, Scola 6-11 7-9 19, Yao 8-18 8-8 24, Alston 2-10 0-0 5, Artest 7-12 2-2 19, Wafer 0-6 0-0 0, Brooks 4-6 0-1 10, Barry 2-3 0-0 6, Landry 3-4 0-6 6. Totals 34-76 17-20 94.

Sacramento 25 10 21 26-82

Houston 22 17 35 20-94

Three-Point Goals—Sacramento 3-12 (Jackson 2-4, Martin 1-2, Udrih 0-1, Garcia 0-2, Salmons 0-3), Houston 9-25 (Artest 3-7, Barry 2-3, Brooks 2-4, Battier 1-4, Alston 1-6, Wafer 0-1). Fouled Out—None. Rebounds—Sacramento 39 (Hawes 7), Houston 48 (Yao 18). Assists—Sacramento 19 (Hawes 6), Houston 24 (Alston 13). Total Fouls—Sacramento 21, Houston 16. Technicals—Houston defensive three second 2, A—15,626 (18,043).

Jazz 113, Lakers 109

L.A. LAKERS — Walton 1-4 0-2 2, Odom 8-13 3-5 19, Gasol 7-13 2-4 16, Fisher 3-7 6-6 13, Bryant 14-33 8-8 37, Vujacic 3-1 3-1 4, Ariza 2-4 0-5 5, Farmer 4-9 0-9, Powell 2-5 0-4 0. Totals 42-90 20-26 109.

UTAH — Miles 6-12 3-4 17, Millsap 4-9 2-4 10, Okur 8-14 3-12 22, Williams 12-17 7-11 31, Brewer 6-10 3-6 16, Korver 2-3 3-7 7, Harrington 3-4 1-2

U.S. men shut out Mexico

Bradley scores both goals in Cup qualifier

By RUSTY MILLER
The Associated Press

COLUMBUS, Ohio — Even before the game started, Michael Bradley knew everything would be fine.

Then he went out and made sure.

Bradley scored twice to lead the United States to a 2-0 victory over Mexico in a World Cup qualifier Wednesday night, preserving the Americans' domination in the series over the past nine years.

"These games against Mexico, they're very special games," Bradley said. "They're fun games. As a player, these big games are the ones you want to play in. In the locker room before the game tonight you looked at every guy and you knew that we were ready to play."

It also was fun for Bradley's dad, who prowls the sideline as the U.S. coach.

He was asked if it was difficult to be both a father and a coach.

"Right now I'm a coach. It's about the team, it really is," Bob Bradley said.

On a wet and windy night at Crew Stadium — under the threat of a tornado watch — the Americans ran their record to 9-0-2 on U.S. soil against Mexico since 2000. Tickets sold out in 90 minutes, with many of the 23,776 fans showing up hours before to stand in the rain while waving flags and wearing their national colors.

"When we first came out to warm up there were quite a few Mexicans — I think they got here early," said veteran midfielder Landon Donovan, who assisted on the second goal.

"When we came out to kick off, the majority of people were Americans. They were great. They were very loud."

After both teams played cautiously at the outset, the Americans finally broke through.

DaMarcus Beasley's corner kick found Donovan at the far side of the 6-yard box, with Donovan heading it back into the scrum. Oguchi Onyewu's header was stopped by diving Mexico goaltender Oswaldo Sanchez, but the rebound came into the path of Bradley, who kicked it in from 6 yards.

"DaMarcus had the great (setup) and Landon did a great job of heading the ball back across the goal," Bradley said. "There was a bunch of guys there and it bounced loose for me."

That touched off a wild celebration just a few feet from the red-clad Sam's Army, which danced



PAUL VERNON/AP

U.S. midfielder Michael Bradley heads the ball during a World Cup qualifier Wednesday in Columbus, Ohio. Bradley scored twice in the 2-0 triumph.

in the aisles and threw confetti up into the jet stream winds.

Then, in second-half stoppage time, Bradley took a pass from Donovan and his shot from 28 yards dipped under Sanchez's arms. It secured the third consecutive 2-0 victory for the Americans over Mexico at Crew Stadium in World Cup qualifying.

"Jozy (Altidore) and Landon made a good play to sort of get in behind their defense," Bradley said. "Landon kind of cut back and I went forward [and] I took a shot on target."

Mexico captain Rafael Marquez was ejected in the 65th minute when he went high to spike goalkeeper Tim Howard as they went for the ball. Howard, who angrily threw the ball down while he flexed his leg, also picked up a yellow card for delay of game on the ensuing free kick.

Marquez apologized to his teammates and almost everyone in Mexico, then tried to explain his penalty.

"Tell my fans that I'm sorry," he said. "It's just the desire to win and not knowing what to do, maybe it's provocation. ... I know I'm important to the team. And I shouldn't set this kind of example."

Howard is suspended for the U.S. game against El Salvador on March 28 for his second yellow card in qualifying.

The loss could mean more trouble for Mexico coach Sven-Goran Eriksson. His team, with just one victory in its past seven outings, barely made it into the final round of qualifying. A former manager of England, he had been brought on to stop what many Tricolores fans consider an almost unforgivable sin: losing to the United States. Mexico easily controlled the series for decades, but the U.S. team has gone 13-7-8 since 1990 to narrow Mexico's advantage to 29-15-11.

"Football is a big sport and, face it, sometimes it's not a friend of [patience]," Eriksson said. "But I'm optimistic because I think we have a good team. We have to score goals — that's our biggest problem."

The match was the first of 10 in the final round of qualifying for each team.

The United States next plays at El Salvador on March 28 before taking on Trinidad and Tobago on April 1 in Nashville, Tenn. Mexico entertains Costa Rica on March 28.

Harris: Confidence paying off

HARRIS, FROM BACK PAGE

stopped on a dime and pivoted to the other side of the rim. And if that didn't work, there was always a step-back jumper or an extra gear that got him a step on the big guys.

On one play, Thomas' knees seemed to lock as Harris put a move on him.

When asked if Harris was trying to blow out his knees, Thomas just laughed.

"He is so quick and explosive, and he can finish with the right or the left and has a great runner," Thomas said.

Even Spurs defensive expert Bruce Bowen got a taste of taking on Harris.

"He is playing freely," Bowen said. "He is not worried about, 'I have to get the ball to this guy or that guy.' He is actually playing like he is the Big 10 player of the year. It's a difference when you have that freedom, when a coach says: 'Hey, when you feel like you

can do this, go ahead.'"

If there is one other area where Harris has improved this season, it's his shooting.

He always got open, but there seemed to be some hesitancy, which might have been from his days in Dallas.

If you don't think you're supposed to shoot, the shots aren't going to fall.

Harris insists he didn't work on his shooting in the offseason.

"My confidence is better and the opportunity to make the shots is there," he said.

"I always thought I was a good shooter but when you shoot freely, then obviously that takes a lot of the hesitation away."

Harris leads the Nets with two games of more than 40 points and eight games of 30 or more. He is one of only five players in the NBA to currently average at least 21.0 points and 6.0 assists per game, with the others being LeBron James, Dwyane Wade,

Joe Johnson and Chris Paul.

The success has Harris seeing a lot more from defenses.

"Now instead of being a nice player, you are the focal point of the scouting report," Frank said.

"It's an adjustment in itself. Now some teams try to get the ball out of his hands early, some get up on him early, some try to force him a certain way, which is truly a compliment because if you weren't significant or really special, you'd just be a name on the report. Now you are a focal point on the report and they are game-planning for you."

In Frank's mind that is only going to make Harris better.

"All the stuff you see now, I have always had," Harris said.

"It just wasn't my role to take advantage of it. Now everybody thinks I have added all this new stuff to my game. It was always there. I just needed the opportunity to bring it out."

MLS sets deadline for Beckham

The Associated Press

CARSON, Calif. — Los Angeles Galaxy coach Bruce Arena expects to know by Friday whether David Beckham will return to the team next month or remain in Europe.

"We think it's best to come to a conclusion; Either David is going to stay (with the Galaxy) or remain at AC Milan," Arena said Wednesday. "In order for our team to move forward, our league to move forward, it's best

that we get a decision as soon as possible."

Earlier in the day, MLS commissioner Don Garber gave the Italian club a deadline to work out a transfer deal for Beckham. The league owns the contract of the 33-year-old midfielder.

Beckham also wanted to see a deal reached.

"Obviously everyone wants it sorted out as quickly as possible because it's been going on for a while now, and of course I hope

it gets sorted out," Beckham said after England's 2-0 loss to Spain at Seville. "Negotiations with Milan are ongoing. We'll just have to wait and see."

Beckham signed a \$32.5 million, five-year contract with MLS in 2007, but has said recently that he wants to continue to play for AC Milan.

His loan to the Italian team expires on March 8.

Arena insists the Galaxy will be fine with or without Beckham.

Gordon's confidence gets a boost after winning Daytona qualifier

By JENNA FRYER

The Associated Press

DAYTONA BEACH, Fla. — Jeff Gordon ended the longest winless drought of his career with a victory in the first of Thursday's twin Daytona 500 qualifying races.

The four-time Cup champion, coming off his first winless season since his rookie year of 1993, climbed from his car in Victory Lane and immediately reached for his young daughter. Ella was an infant during his last victory celebration in October 2007.

The nonpoints race doesn't count for anything in Gordon's victory total, but it does give him a second-row starting spot in Sunday's Daytona 500.

"That's what I'm talking about starting off 2009. Who says we can't win?" Gordon asked. "I'm really excited about the Daytona 500 after that race. It's been awhile since I've been to Victory Lane. I've got to take advantage of this."

Tony Stewart finished second and defending three-time series champion Jimmie Johnson was third.

Joey Logano, the 18-year-old rookie who replaced Stewart with Joe Gibbs Racing, finished fourth.

Stewart and Scott Riggs both earned transfer spots into the Daytona 500, but Stewart already had one based on last week's time trials.

That opened a position for Regan Smith, last year's top rookie who lost his ride at the end of the season.

Riggs finished eighth to earn his spot in the Daytona 500. He lost his job at the end of last year when



JOHN RAOUX/AP

NASCAR driver Jeff Gordon holds his daughter, Ella Sofia Gordon, on pit road before the start of the first of two 150-mile qualifying races for the Daytona 500. Father and daughter were reunited in winner's circle after Gordon won the race.

Stewart took over control of Riggs' former race team. It landed him in a startup operation run by Tommy Baldwin, who lost his job when Bill Davis Racing folded.

"It feels absolutely awesome. It's like we just won the race there," Riggs said. "The racing drug that all of us are addicted to, that's what kept us going."

Packers reiterate offer to retire No. 4

By CHRIS JENKINS
The Associated Press

Despite an avalanche of acrimony that ultimately led to Brett Favre playing for the New York Jets last season, the Green Bay Packers want to honor Favre by retiring his No. 4 jersey at the "appropriate" time.

Favre — who retired from football for the second time on Wednesday — isn't sure when the time might be right to heal his still-smoldering rift with the franchise that traded him.

"It's a shame what has unfolded throughout the whole thing," Favre, 39, said in a teleconference Wednesday. "But I don't know. I don't know. I don't have an answer for that right now. It may be five years, it may be the first game."

Favre hinted that the continued presence of the man who traded him, Packers general manager Ted Thompson, might play a role in when he's ready to return to Green Bay.

"He had his reasonings, I had my reasonings," Favre said of his past disagreements with Thompson. "Who's to say who's right and who's wrong. He has a plan. I'm not mad at him for that. Other people may be, but I don't know. It's a touchy situation."

Wednesday's retirement announcement was Favre's second in less than a year, coming after several offseasons' worth of public indecision about his future.

Favre waved a tearful goodbye in his Packers retirement news conference last March but almost immediately began having second thoughts and privately told the Packers he wanted to come back. Thompson and Packers coach Mike McCarthy were prepared to welcome him back — only to have Favre change his mind once again and stay retired.

By July, the Packers had committed to Aaron Rodgers at quarterback and Favre began to have what he termed an "itch" to play.

After several weeks' worth of public bickering that ended with a conversation between Favre and McCarthy — at which point McCarthy determined Favre wasn't in the right "mind-set" to play for the Packers any more — the team worked out a trade with the Jets and Favre accepted.

Favre insists he's done this time, telling the Jets on Wednesday that his injured shoulder is still bothering him and he's retiring after 18 seasons.

And he really means it — at least for now.

"I have family and friends who are like, 'All right, Brett. Is this the real deal?'" Favre said. "To me, it is. It is. Believe me. It's been a wonderful career, I couldn't ask for anything more. It was worth a shot for me to go to New York. I wish I could've played better down the stretch. I didn't."

"It's time to leave."



DEAN DUPREY/AP

Brett Favre, 39, informed the New York Jets on Wednesday that he was retiring after one season with the team and 18 in the NFL. The record-setting quarterback's announcement invited skepticism, since it was his second retirement in less than a year.

Commentary

Favre runs familiar route

QB probably is retired for good — but we've heard that before

By SAM FARMER
Los Angeles Times

These annual Brett Favre retirements are a little like rumors of the NFL returning to Los Angeles. They start as stop-the-presses stories, but after a while you just stop listening.

Favre is done.

Probably.

But people who suggest this is absolutely the end for the 39-year-old quarterback were saying the same thing 11 months ago, when Favre tearfully retired from the Green Bay Packers.

Is it real this time? Or just more crack management?

Favre isn't the first NFL star to finish his career — if this is indeed the end — in an unfamiliar jersey. Johnny Unitas closed out his with the San Diego Chargers. Joe Namath finished with the Los Angeles Rams. Franco Harris' last team was the Seattle Seahawks. Those could all be answers to trivia questions.

But no one will forget that

Favre's apparent final act came with the New York Jets.

"It's time to leave," he told reporters in a conference call Wednesday. "The downside of this sport, unlike other professions, is you can't do it forever."

Was it worth it?

Only Favre can answer that, because he made a lot of money and was able to scratch that itch, the one he talked about last summer when he announced his decision to unretire. He also left a lot of disenchanted Packers fans in his wake, ones who would have defended him to the bitter end had he just decided to hang up his cleats when he said he would.

It's worth noting that Packers general manager Ted Thompson, widely vilified by Favre and his backers last summer, is looking better by the day. So is Green Bay quarterback Aaron Rodgers, who was a class act throughout the Favre ordeal and played very well in his first season as a starter.

What Favre learned in his jump from the Packers to the Jets is that the (gang) green isn't al-

ways greener on the other side of the fence. Yes, he made the Jets a better team — for the first part of the season, at least — and gave them an immeasurable marketing boost when they needed one to sell personal-seat licenses for their new stadium.

Yet, just as in his career, he didn't know when to say when. He was hampered down the stretch by a torn right biceps and had two touchdown passes and nine interceptions in the last five games, four of which the Jets lost.

Favre blamed the injury for his struggles.

"I guess it was a matter of time before something broke down, and for the quarterback it happened to be the most important thing — the throwing shoulder," he said. "It could've very well be fine next year, and I'm aware of that."

If that sounds to you as if Favre still has his foot jammed in the door — the suggestion that his shoulder could be fine next year — you're probably not imagining things.

Even if he's being as sincere as

he can, there's a very real possibility that he'll get that gnawing urge to play again once summer rolls around. He sounded just as sure of his decision a year ago.

As for his legacy, that might be bruised but it's intact. He still has the credentials to be a first-ballot Hall of Famer, including the NFL records for completions, passing yards, touchdowns, victories as a starting quarterback and, of course, interceptions.

But there's no denying Favre has lost credibility over the past year. His word is his bond. Except when it isn't.

It's funny, one of the most appealing things about Favre is the fact that he's human. He's as unpretentious as his unshaven face, as casual as blue jeans at a cocktail party, a superstar with a homespun, aw-shucks appeal.

But it's his other very human traits — namely indecisiveness and ego — that leave us unable to say if over really means over.

Far East wrestling tournament

Competition intense in early freestyle bouts

By DAVE ORNAUER
Stars and Stripes

CAMP FOSTER, Okinawa — One wrestler wore athletic tape around his head to hold a gauze pad in place over his forehead, the result of a cut over his right eye the day before.

By the time the bout was over, the opponent bore the same look, the result of a cut over — yep — the right eye in the second period.

"That was a war," Kubasaki coach Terry Chumley said after three-time Far East Wrestling Tournament gold medalist Scott Wood survived Yokota's Nick Guzman in a three-period decision at 122 pounds.

The bout was interrupted frequently for each wrestler to have his wounds attended. The outcome propelled Wood into Friday's semifinals, and sent him to the hospital to have his cut stitched.

"Those two brought it," tournament director Fred Bales said. "Amazing."

Such was the level of intensity during Thursday's early-round individual freestyle tournament bouts.

Coaches and wrestlers said it was about girding for Friday's gold-medal bouts, preparing for what's to come and ramping up their games.

"There is no tomorrow," Seoul American coach Julian Harden said. "If you start saving something for the next guy, you end up not seeing tomorrow. One mistake will cost you. I tell my guys, don't save anything. Spend it all on the mat. Especially here. Even more so here."

Wood and Guzman have beaten each other once this season, Guzman topping Woods in last month's "Beast of the Far East" tournament. They could face each other again at least once before



the titles are decided. Kadena's J.C. Henderson, who has beaten Wood, also looms as an obstacle.

"More intensity. More of the same," Wood said of a possible rematch.

More of the same took place at 135 pounds, as Okinawa rivals Jacob Bishop of Kadena and Jon Goddard of Kubasaki squared off for the fourth time this season, with Bishop squeaking out a 2-1 decision.

"He's a good wrestler," Bishop said. "I know he's going to work his way back up. Hopefully I'll wrestle him again, just once."

Then there was the 158-pound group, in which six wrestlers — Seoul's Demetrius Johnson, Robert D. Edgren's Darrel Morris, Daegu American's Greg Jones, Kubasaki's Jake Haynes,

Yokota's Andrew Conkling and Zama's Michael Spencer — favored to challenge for gold were still standing.

"I feel like a NASCAR driver," Morris said after surviving Jones. "I can't think of anybody who isn't a challenge" in his weight class.

The other five defending champions had a fairly smooth ride, with Yokota's Mark Meade (108), Chris Cournoyer (115) and Tony Presnell (168), Kadena's Harry Bloom (148) and Kinnick's Cameron Butts (135) breezing into the semifinals. Nonetheless, all expected a dogfight on Friday.

"The caliber is there on both sides. It's whoever wants it more, whoever has more heart," Kubasaki assistant and two-

time Far East champion Bobby Duncan said.

"It's going to be insane," Zama 148-pounder Elias Labrador said. "Tonight, we're all going to be buddy buddy talking, but tomorrow, we're going to be at each other's throats."

Ex-champ Stokes of Seoul hopes to return to top in finale

From champ in 2007 to runner-up in 2008 fell Justin Stokes of Seoul American, who lost last year's 180-pound title bout 2-1 to Edgren's Andrew Blankenship. Stokes, a senior, says he hopes to make amends.

"It was pretty hard for me," Stokes said of finishing second, adding he knows the route back to the top won't be easy. "Pretty competitive people here this year,

Zama American's Michael Spencer, top, throws Robert D. Edgren's Darrel Morris to the mat during Thursday's 158-pound bout in the DODDS-Pacific Far East High School Wrestling Tournament at Camp Foster, Okinawa. Spencer pinned Morris in 3 minutes, 53 seconds.

DAVE ORNAUER/Stars and Stripes

and they know me. It would be nice to go out with the gold."

Zama's Spencer relishes glory of five-point throw

Which would a wrestler rather score, a pin or a five-point throw? Zama 158-pounder Michael Spencer enjoyed the thrill of the latter during his superior decision over Kadena's Cody Reyes. Spencer used a leg lift to elevate and toss Reyes over his head in the first period.

"It feels great. More dramatic" than a pin, Spencer said.

"We've been trying to get him to do that all year," Zama coach Chris Iredale said.

Edgren's Tanner joins girls' victory club

Joining Osan American's Emily Albonetti in the Far East girls' victory circle on Thursday was Edgren's Stephanie Tanner, a junior who pinned E.J. King's William Smith in the second period.

"We don't consider her a girl; we consider her a wrestler," teammate Morris said. "She's an amazing person, too. We're glad to have her."

Tanner lost her next two bouts, failing in a bid to join Albonetti, who last year won two bouts and placed fifth, the first girl to score points for her team in the Far East tournament.

E-mail Dave Ornauer at: orny@pstripes.osd.mil

High school scoreboard

Wrestling

DODDS-Pacific Far East Tournament At Camp Foster, Okinawa Thursday Freestyle Double-elimination bouts 101 pounds

Nick Breier, Kadena, superior decisioned Kortney Martin, Seoul American, 2-0 (6-0, 8-0); Ed Peterson, Yokota, decisioned Yeejen Nam, Osan American, 2-0 (2-1, 5-1); Marcus Boehler, Nile C. Kinnick, pinned Breier, 1:46; Zach Strandridge, Kubasaki, decisioned Peterson, 2-1 (3-1, 3-3 big point, 2-1); Martin decisioned Nam, 2-0 (3-1, 1-1 last point); Breier decisioned Peterson, 2-0 (4-3, 7-2).

108

Mark Meade, Yokota, pinned Jessica Merrigan, Osan American, 3:1; Ben Austin, E.J. King, pinned Jeff Mizell, Kadena, 5:58; Geoffrey Furner, Seoul American, superior decisioned Seth Wall, Kubasaki, 2-0 (6-0, 7-0); Conner Murphy, Guam High, pinned Alex Hathcock, Nile C. Kinnick, 2:24; Meade decisioned Furner, 2-0 (5-0, 2-0); Murphy pinned Austin, 2:18; Hathcock decisioned Merrigan, 2-0 (6-1, 3-0); Mizell pinned Wall, 2:38.

115

Chris Cournoyer, Yokota, pinned Anthony Cruz, Guam High, 1:29; Stephanie Tanner, Robert D. Edgren, pinned William Smith, E.J. King, 2:29; Cody Allen, Kubasaki, pinned Tanner, 3:39; Alex Suh, Seoul American, pinned Noah Downey, Daegu American, 3:37; Aaron Avila, Kadena, pinned Daryl Guy, Nile C. Kinnick, 1:31; Cournoyer pinned Jake Davis, Osan American, 5:22; Downey pinned Smith, 2:0; Cruz pinned Tanner, 1:02; Allen pinned Avila, 3:59; Cournoyer pinned Suh, 1:41; Davis pinned Downey, 2:44; Cruz pinned Guy, 1:24.

122

Jordan Castillo-Henderson, Kadena, pinned Andrew Becker, Osan American, 3:38; Nick Guzman, Yokota, pinned Chris Miller, Daegu American, 2:33; Marlowe Gonzales, Nile C. Kinnick, pinned Eric Bush, Seoul American, 3:09; Scott Wood, Kubasaki, pinned Keith Johnson, Robert D. Edgren, 3:32; Henderson decisioned Darren Perez, Guam High, 2-0 (1-1 last point, 6-0); Bush decisioned Becker, 2-0 (2-1, 1-0); Johnson pinned Miller, 1:58; Wood decisioned Guzman, 2-1 (1-0, 0-1, 5-1); Perez pinned Bush, 3:01; Henderson pinned Gonzales, 3:55.

129

ZaCory Scott, E.J. King, superior decisioned Evan Lobeto, Daegu American, (8-0, 6-0); Greg Morris, Seoul American, decisioned Michael Tougher, Guam High, 2-1 (1-3, 2-2 last point, 3-3 last point); Taeon Paschal, Kadena, pinned Derek Becker, Osan American, 3:50; Elijah Gamble, Nile C. Kinnick, pinned Tim Pounds, Robert D. Edgren, 2:34; Josh Bales, Kubasaki, superior decisioned Scott, 2-0 (6-0, 8-3); Devin Day, Yokota, pinned Morris, 3:21; Pounds superior decisioned Lobeto, 2-0 (6-0, 6-0); Scott decisioned Tougher, 2-0 (1-0, 3-0); Bales superior decisioned Paschal, 2-0 (8-1, 7-0); Pounds pinned Morris, 3:04; Day pinned Gamble, 4:38; Scott pinned Becker, 3:40.

135

Devon Newbold, Guam High, pinned Christian Dawes, Daegu American, 1:08; Cameron Butts, Nile C. Kinnick, superior decisioned Josh Kim, Seoul American, 2-0 (6-0, 6-0); Matt Saucedo, Yokota, decisioned Cory Peckins, Osan American, 2-0 (2-0, 3-2); Jacob Bishop, Kadena, decisioned Jon Goddard, Kubasaki, 2-1 (2-0, 1-4, 1-0 OT clinch); Peckins pinned Kim, 3:46; Jonathan Day, Robert D. Edgren, superior decisioned Saucedo, 2-0 (6-0, 6-0); Butts pinned Day, 2:57; Peckins decisioned Saucedo, 2-0 (4-2, 8-2); Newbold

decisioned Bishop, 2-1 (4-1, 1-7, 1-0); Goddard pinned Dawes, 1:24.

141

A.J. De Los Santos, Daegu American, def. Dalton Rimmer, Osan American, walkover; Erick Kingsley, Seoul American, pinned Roger Hamed, Robert D. Edgren, 1:01; Philip Bayani, Nile C. Kinnick, pinned De Los Santos, 1:45; John Iredale, Zama American, pinned Cody Trimmell, Yokota, 1:18; James McDowell, Kubasaki, decisioned Christian Spotsniski, Guam High, 2-0 (3-0, 7-1); Kingsley pinned Shanon Lautenschlager, Kadena, 1:55; Spotsniski def. Rimmer, walkover; De Los Santos pinned Hamed, 1:47; Bayani decisioned Iredale, 2-1 (1-2, 4-1, 2-1); McDowell decisioned Kingsley, 2-0 (6-3, 4-2); De Los Santos pinned Trimmell, 1:47; Lautenschlager superior decisioned Spotsniski, 2-0 (6-0, 9-3).

148

Chris Paul, Kubasaki, pinned Joe Duskie, Osan American, 3:29; Derek Youngblood, Nile C. Kinnick, pinned Jonathan Turner, Daegu American, 1:28; Harry Bloom, Kadena, pinned Tyler Crandell, Yokota, 3:33; Elias Labrador, Zama American, pinned Brenden Henesey, Guam High, 3:37; Bryce Edminister, Robert D. Edgren, decisioned Youngblood, 2-1 (2-0, 5-5 last point, 4-1); Paul pinned Daniel Bequillard, Seoul American, 3:45; Youngblood pinned Duskie, 1:18; Turner pinned Crandell, 4:47; Labrador pinned Edminister, 1:44; Bequillard pinned Turner, 3:50; Bloom superior decisioned Paul, 2-0 (7-0, 6-0); Youngblood pinned Henesey, 2:26.

158

Greg Jones, Daegu American, pinned Zach Fry, Guam High, 1:44; Andrew Conkling, Yokota, pinned Andrew Hoffman, E.J. King, 1:30; Jake Haynes, Kubasaki, pinned David Ford, Nile C. Kinnick, 2:51; Michael Spencer, Zama American, superior decisioned Cody Reyes, Kadena, 2-0 (6-0, 7-0); Conkling decisioned Demetrius Johnson, Seoul American, 2-1 (6-4, 3-2,

3-0 OT clinch); Darrel Morris, Robert D. Edgren, decisioned Jones, 2-0 (7-5, 3-0); Reyes decisioned Hoffman, 2-0 (7-0, 5-1); Johnson pinned Fry, 1:15; Conkling decisioned Haynes, 2-0 (2-0, 3-1); Spencer pinned Morris, 3:53; Jones decisioned Reyes, 2-0 (4-0, 7-4); Johnson decisioned Ford, 2-0 (5-0, 4-1).

168

Nick Gibbons, Nile C. Kinnick, pinned Michael Newman, Osan American, 2:42; Tony Presnell, Yokota, pinned Yoo Han, Seoul American, 1:11; Randy Candalaria, Kubasaki, decisioned Lambert Patis, Guam High, 2-0 (5-0, 4-2); Han pinned Newman, 3:39; Dillon Bush, Kadena, decisioned Candalaria, 2-0 (1-0, 3-0); Presnell superior decisioned Gibbons, 2-0 (6-0, 6-0); Gibbons decisioned Patis, 2-0 (3-0, 4-2); Candalaria pinned Han, 2:42.

180

Matt Payne, Kubasaki, decisioned Kenny Sampson, Nile C. Kinnick, 2-0 (1-0, 2-1); Jake Suthers, Guam High, pinned Alex Pelky, Kadena, 1:50; Justin Stokes, Seoul American, pinned Travis Holder, Robert D. Edgren, 2:52; Jacob Iredale, Zama American, pinned Juan Palacios, Osan American, 3:35; Sampson pinned Palacios, 1:52; Sayer Austin, Yokota, pinned Payne, 3:07; Pelky pinned Holder, 3:37; Stokes decisioned Suthers, 2-1 (2-0, 1-2, 3-0); Iredale pinned Austin, 1:07; Payne decisioned Sampson, 2-0 (2-1, 1-0).

215

Kevin Moller, Daegu American, pinned Alejandro Gomez, Robert D. Edgren, 2:35; Tyler Broome, Kadena, decisioned David de los Santos, Nile C. Kinnick, 2-0 (3-2, 5-0); Jesse Crockett, Osan American, pinned Alex Gonzalez, Zama American, 3:38; Kyle Patterson, Kubasaki, pinned Nico Scholl, Seoul American, 3:58; Crockett pinned Patterson, 4:00; Moller pinned Broome, 1:44; de los Santos pinned Gomez, 1:50; Scholl decisioned Gonzalez, 2-0 (9-6, 4-1).

Heavyweight

Jack Miller, Kubasaki, pinned Thomas French, Guam High, 1:07; Gabe Ahner, Kadena, decisioned William Franklin, Seoul American, 2-0 (4-1, 4-0); Michael Gilliam, Osan American, decisioned Miller, 2-0 (2-0, 3-0); Mikkarie Curry, Nile C. Kinnick, pinned Ahner, 1:40; French pinned Franklin, 1:17; Ahner decisioned Miller, 2-0 (2-0, 2-1).

Japan

Boys basketball Thursday's summary Yokota 66, Christian Academy in Japan 46 At Yokota Air Base

| | | | | |
|--------|----|----|----|-------|
| CAJ | 17 | 11 | 7 | 11-46 |
| Yokota | 17 | 17 | 18 | 14-66 |

Scoring-Yokota, DeEric Harvin 23, Keron Brown 20, Antony Phillips 13; CAJ, Eric Ellison 13, Justin Barber 10.

Girls basketball

Thursday's summary Yokota 49, Christian Academy in Japan 34 At Tokyo

| | | | | |
|--------|---|----|---|---------|
| Yokota | 8 | 11 | 9 | 21-49 |
| CAJ | 8 | 11 | 7 | 12-4-34 |

Scoring-Yokota, Desiree Kirkwood 14, Anya Brown 11, Paige Davis 10.

Okinawa

Girls basketball Thursday's summary Kubasaki 65, Zion Christian Academy 41 At Camp Foster

| | | | | |
|----------|----|----|----|-------|
| Zion | 10 | 8 | 16 | 7-41 |
| Kubasaki | 19 | 13 | 16 | 17-65 |

Scoring-Kubasaki, Athena Wilbon 14, Bianca Johnson 12, Natasha Copeland 10; Zion, Kelly Colbert 19, Sarah Wilson 10. Rebounding-Kubasaki, Bianca Johnson 14, Sydnie Bligh 11; Zion, Kelly Colbert 15.

Sports briefs

Selig says A-Rod shamed the game

The Associated Press

TAMPA, Fla. — Bud Selig says Alex Rodriguez has "shamed the game," though the baseball commissioner indicated no plans to punish the three-time AL MVP.

"I am saddened by the revelations," Selig said in a statement issued Thursday, four days after Rodriguez admitted he used unspecified drugs from 2001-03 while playing for the Texas Rangers. "What Alex did was wrong, and he will have to live with the damage he has done to his name and reputation."

Players and owners didn't agree to a drug program until August 2002, and testing with punishment didn't start until 2004.

"It is important to remember that these recent revelations relate to pre-program activity," Selig said.

"Under our current drug program, if you are caught using steroids and/or amphetamines, you will be punished. Since 2005, every player who has tested positive for steroids has been suspended for as much as 50 games."

Rodriguez's admission came two days after Sports Illustrated reported on its Web site that he was among 104 on a list of players who tested positive for steroids in 2003, when testing was intended to determine the extent of steroid use in baseball. The results weren't subject to discipline and were supposed to remain anonymous, but were seized by the government in 2004 and remain under seal.

Though Rodriguez said he experimented with a number of substances, he has not provided details.

Much of Selig's statement Thursday was a recitation of his efforts to get a drug agreement with the union and then toughen it. With baseball officials under pressure from Congress, negotiators from management and the union strengthened the program in January 2005, November 2005 and April 2008.

Judge tosses most of Clemens' suit

HOUSTON — A federal judge dismissed most of Roger Clemens' defamation lawsuit against his former personal trainer Thursday, saying statements made in the Mitchell Report on doping in Major League Baseball are protected.

Brian McNamee has told federal agents, MLB investigator George Mitchell and a U.S. Congress committee that he injected Clemens more than a dozen times with steroids and human growth hormone from 1998-2001.

McNamee's attorneys said Clemens' lawsuit should be thrown out because McNamee was compelled to cooperate by federal investigators. U.S. District Judge Keith Ellison agreed.

Clemens has repeatedly denied McNamee's accusations and sued last year. And prosecutors have asked a federal grand jury in Washington to decide whether to indict the seven-time Cy Young Award winner for lying under oath to Congress last year when he denied using steroids or HGH.

In the lawsuit, Ellison did leave in McNamee's statements to Andy Pettitte, Clemens' former New York Yankees teammate. McNamee told Pettitte that Clemens had used HGH and steroids. Ellison said McNamee's statements to Pettitte "are reasonably capable of defamatory meaning."

Nats give Dunn \$20M for two years

WASHINGTON — Adam Dunn has a new team, and the Washington Nationals have a new cleanup hitter.

The Nationals scheduled a news confer-



Lindsey Vonn shows her injured thumb in Val d'Isere, France, on Thursday. Vonn, who cut herself on a champagne bottle while celebrating her victory in the downhill Monday, said she hasn't given up on competing in the slalom Saturday.

LUCA BRUNO/AP

ence at their stadium Thursday to introduce Dunn, a free agent who agreed to a \$20 million, two-year deal.

The contract will pay Dunn \$8 million in 2009, and \$12 million in 2010.

Dunn, a first baseman and outfielder, hit a combined .236 with 40 homers, 100 RBIs and 164 strikeouts last season with the Cincinnati Reds and Arizona Diamondbacks. He hit at least 40 homers and struck out at least 164 times in each of the past five seasons.

Angels, Abreu come to terms

ANAHEIM, Calif. — The Los Angeles Angels agreed to a one-year contract with outfielder Bobby Abreu on Wednesday, adding pop to a lineup that struggled scoring runs last season.

Terms were not disclosed. According to several media outlets, Abreu will get a base salary of \$5 million with a chance to push it above \$6 million based on incentives.

The right-fielder, 34, batted .296 with 100 RBIs and 20 homers for the New York Yankees last season. He joins an Angels outfield-designated hitter rotation of Torii Hunter, Vladimir Guerrero, Juan Rivera and Gary Matthews Jr.

Offerman sued in bat attack

NEW HAVEN, Conn. — Former All-Star Jose Offerman was sued Thursday for a bat-wielding attack during a minor league game that injured two opposing players.

Bridgeport Bluefish catcher John Nathans is seeking \$4.8 million in damages, saying the attack left him with permanent injuries that ended his career.

Offerman was batting for the Long Island Ducks against the Bluefish in Bridgeport on Aug. 14, 2007, when pitcher Matt Beech hit him with a fastball. Offerman charged the mound with his bat and swung at least twice, striking Beech and Nathans.

An All-Star infielder with the Dodgers in 1995 and Red Sox in 1999, Offerman had faced up to 10 years in prison on two felony assault charges. He was granted probation in 2007, ordered to get anger management treatment and pay the medical expenses of Beech and Nathans.

Nathans said he was hit in the head with Offerman's bat, causing a brain concussion, inner ear damage, vertigo, headaches and post-concussion syndrome.

Offerman last played in the majors in 2005 with the New York Mets. He batted .273 during his 15 seasons in the majors.

Baylor sues Clippers, NBA over firing

LOS ANGELES — Elgin Baylor, the former Los Angeles Clippers general manager who was dismissed last fall after 22 years, has sued the team, the NBA and team owner Donald Sterling, alleging employment discrimination.

Baylor's attorney, Carl Douglas, said the

lawsuit was filed Wednesday in Los Angeles Superior Court. Baylor, 74, planned to hold a news conference Thursday to discuss the lawsuit, which also names club president Andy Roeser.

The lawsuit maintains that Baylor was "discriminated against and unceremoniously released from his position with the team on account of his age and his race" and that he was "grossly underpaid during his tenure with the Clippers, never earning more than \$350,000 per year, when compared with the compensation scheme for general managers employed by every other team in the NBA."

The NBA is named in the lawsuit, according to Douglas' fax, as "a joint venturer/partner of condoning, adopting and ratifying this discriminatory practice since the league is fully aware of salaries paid to all of the general managers."

Webb grabs lead in Australian Opens

MELBOURNE, Australia — Former No. 1-ranked Karrie Webb shot a 7-under 66 to lead the Women's Australian Open by three strokes Thursday, as 12-year-old Oh Su-hyun became the youngest player to participate in the tournament.

Webb, the defending champion, had eight birdies and a bogey to take a three-stroke lead over Tania Elosegui of Spain and South Korea's Lee Chang-hee. Clare Queen of Scotland, Beatriz Recari of Spain and South Korea's Kim Hye-young were four shots off the pace.

Webb, 34, is chasing her third consecutive Women's Australian Open title and fifth since 2000. Oh, who hadn't picked up a golf club before moving to Australia from South Korea in 2004 and plays off a 2 handicap, was 13 shots back after a 6-over 79.

LPGA, Golf Channel hook up

KAHUKU, Hawaii — The LPGA Tour announced a 10-year agreement with Golf Channel on Wednesday, making the network the tour's exclusive cable home beginning in 2010.

The agreement, which LPGA commissioner Carolyn Bivens called groundbreaking, establishes the tour as the only stand-alone U.S. women's professional sports organization to receive a rights fee agreement for domestic broadcast coverage. Financial details were not disclosed.

With the deal, Golf Channel will become the exclusive cable home for all major tours — the PGA, Champions, Nationwide, European and Canadian tours.

Golf Channel, a subsidiary of Comcast Corp., was co-founded by golfer great Arnold Palmer.

Germany's Hoelzl wins giant slalom

VAL D'ISERE, France — Kathrin Hoelzl of Germany won the giant slalom in the world championships Thursday

after the favorites faltered.

Hoelzl timed 2 minutes, 3.49 seconds over two runs down the steep Bellevard course. Tina Maze of Slovenia finished second, 0.09 seconds behind, and Tanja Poutiainen of Finland was third.

American Lindsey Vonn, the worlds super-G and downhill champion, sat out after surgery on her right thumb.

Hoelzl is the first German giant slalom world champion — male or female — since Maria Eppler won on home snow in Garmisch-Partenkirchen in 1978. Hoelzl, 24, had never won on the World Cup tour, with her best finish second in a giant slalom in 2007.

Hoelzl was fourth after the opening run, 0.68 seconds behind leader Kathrin Zettel of Austria. Olympic giant slalom champion Julia Mancuso of the United States finished 18th. She was 3 seconds behind after her first trip down.

Vonn not ruling out slalom

VAL D'ISERE, France — Lindsey Vonn hasn't ruled out skiing in Saturday's slalom at the world championships after missing the giant slalom Thursday because of tendon surgery on her right thumb.

"It was pretty good in free skiing today, but there was a lot of pressure and vibration," Vonn said. "Tomorrow we're going to do some gate skiing and then we should be able to decide. At this point it looks OK, but I'm not going to say until I know for sure. I'm not going to ski if I can't perform my best."

Vonn opened the championships by winning the super-G, then took the downhill Monday for a sweep of the speed events. She cut her thumb on a broken champagne bottle celebrating her downhill victory.

After worlds, Vonn will defend her overall World Cup title. "I think for downhill, super-G and giant slalom it should be OK, but slalom is going to be the most difficult," she said, adding that her next order of business would be figuring out how she can get into her tuck position for the speed events.

Lawyers: Phelps probe brings arrests

COLUMBIA, S.C. — Authorities in the South Carolina county where Michael Phelps was photographed smoking from a marijuana pipe have been arresting people as they seek to make a case against the star swimmer, lawyers for two arrested people said Thursday.

Attorneys Joseph McCulloch and Dick Harpootlian told The Associated Press they each represent a client charged with possession of marijuana who were questioned about the party Phelps attended near the University of South Carolina campus in November.

The lawyers said the two clients were renters at the house where the party apparently took place. Harpootlian said his client was at the party, but didn't see Phelps smoke marijuana. McCulloch said his client wasn't there. The two have since moved and were arrested after police executed a search warrant at their new home and accused them of having a small amount of marijuana there.

"After they arrested him, they didn't ask him, 'Where did you get the marijuana?' or 'Who sold it to you?' Almost all the questions they asked him were about Michael Phelps," Harpootlian said.



GERRY BROOME/AP

North Carolina's Ty Lawson drives to the basket as Duke's Kyle Singler (12) and David McClure defend. North Carolina won 101-87.

Hansbrough perfect on Coach K's court

Senior leads Tar Heels by outmanned Blue Devils

By JOEDY MCCREARY
The Associated Press

DURHAM, N.C. — Tyler Hansbrough squared up in front of the Cameron Crazies and tossed up a long three-pointer — just like he did three years earlier.

Just as then, the North Carolina star swished it through.

"I'm not scared to shoot 'em," Hansbrough said.

Here's something else that never seems to change around here: Hansbrough walking off Coach K's court a winner.

Ty Lawson scored 21 of his season-high 25 points in the second half and the third-ranked Tar Heels rallied past No. 6 Duke 101-87 on Wednesday night.

Hansbrough scored 17 points while remaining perfect at Cameron Indoor Stadium for the Tar Heels (22-2, 8-2 Atlantic Coast Conference), who won their eighth straight while becoming the first team in nine seasons to hit triple digits against Duke.

"Each year it's been different,"

Hansbrough said. "Our freshman year, no one thought we could come in here and win. ... Tonight was one of those things where you didn't want to think about the record. We just wanted to come out and play."

They came on strong down the stretch, using late runs of 25-11 and 14-0 to first take the lead for good and then stretch it to 17. In the process, they snapped the Blue Devils' 14-game home court winning streak while claiming first place in the ACC standings.

Wayne Ellington and Danny Green added 15 points apiece. Green and Hansbrough joined former Wake Forest standouts Tim Duncan and Rusty LaRue as the only players to beat Mike Krzyzewski four straight times on the Cameron court that now bears his name.

Kyle Singler scored 22 points and Jon Scheyer added 20 to lead Duke (20-4, 7-3), which kept up with the uptempo Tar Heels for about 30 minutes before spiraling to its fifth loss in six meet-

ings with the hated rival located 8 miles down Tobacco Road.

"In the second half, we kind of had the mindset that we were going to outscore them," Singler said. "But you're not going to outscore Carolina."

Gerald Henderson finished with 17 points — but shot just 1-for-9 in the second half.

"We did not hit shots for a short period of time there," Krzyzewski said. "And they did, and they got away from us."

Lawson gave North Carolina all the separation it needed a short while later, when he scored nine of the 12 straight points reeled off by the Tar Heels. His three-point play with 3:42 remaining made it 88-71.

That came two possessions after Hansbrough pulled up over David McClure and knocked down a three-pointer.

"I told our guys, 'The streak is going to stop at some time,'" coach Roy Williams said. "Let's just put it off for another year."

College basketball roundup

UConn's Thabeet makes big difference

The Associated Press

STORRS, Conn. — Jim Calhoun and Jim Boeheim have coached for more than three decades and the battles between their teams have created one of college basketball's top rivalries.

The two were in total agreement after Calhoun's top-ranked Connecticut Huskies won their 12th straight game, 63-49 over Boeheim's 23rd-ranked Syracuse Orange on Wednesday night: Hasheem Thabeet is one of the best defensive big men to play in the Big East.

The 7-foot-3 Thabeet had eight points, 16 rebounds and seven blocks and affected even more shots as the Huskies sent the Orange to their fifth loss in six games.

"We're not the best offensive team in the league but we're a pretty good defensive team with Hasheem in the middle," Calhoun said. "He affected 20 penetrations in the lane. Don't get caught up in stats with him, even as good as they are, because he is one of the most amazing forces in basketball in America."

Boeheim called Thabeet a "tremendous defensive player."

"I've said it before and I still believe he's the best we've had in this league. We're an inside team and he takes that away from you."

The Orange came in averaging 80 points per game, second-best in the league.

"Holding them to 49, that was the most impressive thing to me," said A.J. Price, who had 17 points for the Huskies (23-1, 11-1 Big East), who have won three games since assuming the No. 1 spot in the AP poll last week.

They overcame a sloppy first half by cutting down the turnovers and hitting three-pointers, pulling away with a 12-0 run that gave Connecticut a 56-40 lead midway through the second half.

The Huskies had to play almost the entire game without No. 2 scorer Jerome Dyson, who bruised his right knee just over 4 minutes in and didn't return.

Jonny Flynn had 16 points for Syracuse (18-7, 6-6), which was ranked as high as No. 8 before the skid that may now see the Orange drop out of the national rankings.

"We had some really good opportunities early and didn't take advantage of them," Boeheim said. "That first half we played as good as we are, because he is one of the most amazing forces in basketball in America."

Syracuse got within 57-50 on a three by Andy Rautins with 5:34 left, but Price answered with a three 25 seconds later and the lead was at least 10 thereafter.

No. 2 Oklahoma 78, Baylor 63: Blake Griffin had 18 points and 10 rebounds for his 21st double-double, tying a school record, as the visiting Sooners won their 12th straight.

Griffin got plenty of help as the Sooners (24-1, 10-0 Big 12) won their 30th consecutive game over Baylor (15-9, 3-7), a streak that dates to December 1977.

Curtis Jerrells had 19 points to lead Baylor (15-9, 3-7), which has lost six straight.

N.C. State 82, No. 7 Wake Forest 76: Brandon Costner scored 23 points to help host N.C. State beat a ranked opponent for the first time in five games this season.

Farnold Degand and Courtney Fells added 14 points apiece for the Wolfpack (13-9, 3-6 ACC), who watched a 20-point second-half lead shrink to two before pulling away.

James Johnson scored 18 points to lead the Demon Deacons (18-4, 5-4 ACC), who lost their third consecutive road game.

No. 8 Memphis 63, Tulsa 37: Robert Dozier scored a career-high 23 points and Tyreke Evans added 13 as the host Tigers won their 15th straight.

The Tigers (21-3, 9-0 Conference USA) also won their 51st consecutive game in league play. Jerome Jordan, who had 20

points and 13 rebounds against Memphis earlier this season, was held to a team-high eight points and three rebounds for Tulsa (17-8, 7-3). Ben Uzoh, Tulsa's leading scorer at 14.9 points per game, was held scoreless in the first half and finished with three points.

Dayton 71, No. 14 Xavier 58: At Dayton, Ohio, Chris Wright led a balanced offense with 19 points as Dayton ended a six-game losing streak against visiting Xavier.

Dayton (22-3, 8-2 Atlantic 10) led throughout against the defending two-time conference champions.

Xavier (20-4, 8-2) has lost back-to-back games for the second time this season.

No. 20 Purdue 61, Penn State 47: At West Lafayette, Ind., JaJuan Johnson had 14 points and 13 rebounds as host Purdue moved into a tie for second place in the Big Ten.

Bobby Riddell scored a career-high 13 points, Nemanja Calasan scored 12 and E'Twaun Moore added 10 for the Boilermakers (18-6, 7-4).

Jamelle Cornley scored 16 points for Penn State (17-8, 6-6), which lost its third straight. Talor Battle, the conference scoring leader with 18 points per game, went scoreless, missing all seven shots from the field.

Service academies

Air Force, Navy Army beaten

The Associated Press

AIR FORCE ACADEMY, Colo. — Roman Martinez scored 20 points as New Mexico beat Air Force 76-66 Wednesday night, the Falcons' 11th straight loss.

Tony Danridge added 16 points for the Lobos (16-9, 7-3 Mountain West Conference), who trailed 37-33 at halftime despite scoring the game's first 15 points but benefited by going inside and drawing fouls in the second half.

Matt Holland scored 20 points and Andrew Henke 19 for the Falcons (9-14, 0-10), who are 7-8 at home this season after going 68-6 the previous five seasons.

Lehigh 70, Navy 59: Marquis Hall scored 18 points as visiting Lehigh snapped a two-game skid.

The Mountain Hawks (14-9, 4-5 Patriot League) used a 19-7 run, capped by seven straight points by Zahir Carrington, to pull ahead 51-48 with 9:40 remaining.

Chris Harris had 18 for Navy (16-8, 5-4). Patriot League scoring leader Kaleo Kina was limited to five.

Holy Cross 62, Army 59: Alex Vander Baan's steal with six seconds left and a missed three-pointer by Army's Nathan Hedgecock as time expired helped host Holy Cross (13-11, 8-1 Patriot) hold off Army (7-16, 3-6).

SPORTS



Greene ties scoring mark for defensemen in loss to Rangers, Page 33

New KIDD on the BLOCK

Harris exceeds expectations after being traded for Nets' All-Star last year



BILL KOSTROUN/AP

The New Jersey Nets' Devin Harris goes up with the ball after getting past the San Antonio Spurs' Tim Duncan during the first quarter of Tuesday's game. Harris has developed into one of the NBA's top point guards and will represent the East in the All-Star Game on Sunday.

By TOM CANAVAN
The Associated Press

EAST RUTHERFORD, N.J. It hasn't taken Devin Harris long to make the New Jersey Nets forget Jason Kidd. Less than a year after being acquired in the blockbuster deal that shipped Kidd to Dallas, the 25-year-old Harris has emerged as one of the NBA's top point guards.

This weekend, Harris will head to Phoenix to represent the East in his first All-Star Game. Kidd, the soon-to-be 36-year-old who led the Nets to two NBA Finals, was not named to the West squad, though he is a nine-time All-Star.

"You can't replace a player like Jason Kidd here," Harris said. "He is a Hall of Famer. He did great things for this organization, put this organization on the map. But you can't live up to the expectation of other people, you have to live up to the expectations you set for yourself."

To be honest, Harris never doubted what he could do on the court, given the right circumstances.

With the Mavericks, Harris was never one of the primary options. His job was to distribute the ball to Dirk Nowitzki, Jason Terry and Josh Howard.

"It was tough because I was always trying to figure out where

I fit in offensively with different players and what not," Harris said. "I thought I did OK, shooting off the other guys and playing off the other guys. I was fine with it."

But the system limited Harris on the offensive end.

That has all ended with the Nets. Coach Lawrence Frank has given Harris the green light on offense and told him to take advantage of his ability to penetrate the lane, which also sets up his jump shot. Heading into the break, Harris' numbers are hard to match.

Harris is averaging career bests with 21.8 points, 6.5 assists, 1.60 steals and 35.8 minutes in 47 starts. The University of Wisconsin product is the NBA's high-

est-scoring point guard. He also holds the league's highest point increase from 2007-08 to 2008-09 (minimum 50 games played last season) tallying seven more points than his 14.8 scoring average of last season.

Watching Harris go down the lane against Tim Duncan and Kurt Thomas in a loss to the San Antonio Spurs on Tuesday night was similar to seeing a shifty NFL halfback looking for a hole in the defensive line.

Harris would beat his man off the dribble and then give San Antonio's big men a shoulder move one way while his body went the other way. If that didn't work, he

SEE HARRIS ON PAGE 35



Hansbrough stays perfect at Cameron as Heels top Duke

Page 39



U.S. blanks Mexico in World Cup qualifier

Page 35



Selig pondering options for A-Rod punishment

Page 38

